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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1990/RAJAB 16, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Armed struggle must go on, Mandela tells South Africans

'Freedom for all'

One dead, 200 wounded in violent clashes with shotgun police



Mandela and his wife Winnie salute well-wishers as he leaves Victor Verster prison. (Reuter wirephoto)

CAPE TOWN, Feb 11, (Agencies): African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela walked out of prison today and told South African blacks the armed struggle against white rule must go on.

Mandela, released after 27 years behind bars, said the ANC had been forced into a guerrilla war in 1960 as "a purely defensive action against the violence of apartheid."

"We have waited too long for our freedom," Mandela told the crowd. He said that until the proper climate was created for peaceful negotiations, the armed struggle was still a policy of the ANC.

Full Coverage Pages 11 & 12

"The factors that (caused the need for struggle)... exist today," he said.

"We have no option but to continue," he told a cheering crowd of 50,000 who gathered in central Cape Town to hear his first public address in more than three decades.

Despite the call for the armed campaign to continue, Mandela's first words to the cheering crowd contained a message of peace. "I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all," he said.

The rally was a chaotic climax to Mandela's first day of freedom since he was jailed in 1962 and sentenced in 1964 to life imprisonment for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Looking tense but cheerful, Mandela walked to freedom earlier today hand in hand with his wife Winnie through the gates of the Victor Verster jail, about 60 km (40 miles) from Cape Town, where thousands of people had gathered to greet him.

He walked over to a small crowd of supporters, many of whom had waited for hours in searing heat, and stood in front of them for about a minute, repeatedly punching his arm in the air and whispering at one point into his wife's ear.

Mandela, smartly dressed in a suit and tie, then returned to a silver car at the head of a long cavalcade for a victorious drive into central Cape Town.

Mandela's speech was delayed an hour by the violence. As the clashes erupted, some anti-apartheid leaders told the crowd to disperse, but many remained to hear Mandela's voice for the first time in nearly three decades. Army units equipped with tear gas were deployed nearby, and police helicopters flew overhead.

Mandela thanked members of the ANC, other anti-apartheid organisations and the international community for pressing Pretoria to release him from the life sentence imposed on him in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule.

"On this day of my release, I extend my sincere and warmest gratitude to the millions of my compatriots and those in every corner of the globe who have campaigned tirelessly for my release," he added.

(Continued on Page 11)

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.
State of sea: Slight to moderate
High water: 1.00 am, 2.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.31 am
Sunset: 5.34 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Abu Dhabi: 17°C 63°F
Falkland: 18°C 64°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 6°C 43°F
Abu Dhabi: 9°C 48°F
Falkland: 9°C 48°F
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Abu Dhabi: 18°C 64°F
Falkland: 18°C 64°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 95 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 66 per cent
Falkland: 76 per cent

Praise for Oman architecture

Amir visits sites

MUSCAT, Feb 11, (Kuna): HH the Amir of Kuwait commenced the second day of his official three-day visit to Oman sultanate today by visiting the Bahla and Nazwa historical regions.

HH, accompanied by Omani Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, toured the historical fortress of Jibreen, 230 kms away from capital Muscat.

The fortress was built by Yalabay Bin Suhayn in 1670 to serve as a palace for his residence with its various rooms decorated in a manner mirroring genuine and fine art.

The Amir then visited the Tanuf valley where he was acquainted on old and modern systems of irrigation in Oman.

Writing in the visitors book, the Amir marvelled Oman's traditional architecture and ingenuity representing part of the Sultanate's glorious history.



What a fall!

James Douglas reigned as undisputed heavyweight boxing champion of the world for just six hours on Sunday after knocking out Mike Tyson in one of the sport's greatest upsets.

Douglas, written off by the pundits before the scheduled 12-round bout, recovered from an eighth-round knockdown to floor in the 10th the previously undefeated Tyson, (top), seen with his mouthpiece falling out and (above) on the shoulders of one of his men.

But only six hours later the sport's governing bodies said they would not recognise the result because of a controversy over the eighth-round count.

Mayrnan counted to nine before Douglas's count at four on their signal.

"The WBA and WBC and (Tyson promoter) Don King can all go to hell as far as I'm concerned," said Douglas' manager John Johnson.

He said he would add the International Boxing Federation (IBF) to that list if they joined in the WBA and WBC stance. The IBF was not represented at the news conference where the WBA and WBC announced their position.

DAY BY DAY

I CANNOT understand the wisdom behind the ban on imports of used cars older than two years.
Why should the poor or limited-income people be deprived of getting cars at reasonable prices, particularly when the period of five years previously allowed does not make the cars look old. Many of these five-year old cars are in good condition, particularly those used sparingly in their countries of origin.
Import of used cars is a measure to extend facilities to consumers and reduce the burden on the limited income group.

Zahed Matar

Free Catalogue

To our subscribers:

On the occasion of the "8TH MODERN HOUSE" exhibition, Arab Times are pleased to announce that a copy of the 1990 IKEA catalogue will be distributed FREE, with our issue of Tuesday, February 13th, 1990.

We regret that this service is only available to our subscribers.

Tomorrow!

Stench of death hangs heavy

Aoun, Geagea ignore truce call: Beirutis scamper for food

BEIRUT, Feb 11, (Agencies): Rival Christian forces battled in Beirut's rain-drenched alleyways and the mountains northeast of the capital today as civilians ran a gauntlet of sniper fire into the Muslim sector to buy food and water for their trapped families.

Rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen led by Samir Geagea ignored two ceasefire calls to end their 13-day-old war for mastery of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

It is the bloodiest fighting between Christian forces since the civil war between Lebanon's Muslims and Christians erupted in 1975.

Police said at least eight people were killed and 17 wounded. Aoun's headquarters reported 12 soldiers and four officers killed in the last two days.

That raised the casualty toll since fighting erupted Jan 30, when Aoun moved against Geagea, to at least 457 killed and 1,701 wounded.

Shell-battered hospitals packed with casualties made fresh radio appeals for blood, plasma, oxygen and water as supplies ran low.

In some districts of Christian East Beirut, the stench of death hung in streets where decomposing bodies have lain for days. Civil defence teams have not been able to remove them because of fierce sniper fire.

Hundreds of frightened civilians dodged bullets and sprinted across the city's dividing Green Line. Many risked their lives to buy bread and drinking water for their families trapped in underground shelters and basements by the fighting.

Others who made it across the three-mile (5-kilometre) demarcation line stayed in the Syrian-policed Muslim sector, which is outside the combat zone.

(Continued on Page 12)

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Details inside page



Opposition threatens to cripple Pakistan Parliament

ISLAMABAD, Feb 11, (AP): Pakistan's opposition promised today to paralyse an already crippled National Assembly in retaliation for what it called a premature end to debate on the troubled Indian state of Jammu-Kashmir.

In a prepared statement, Pakistan's hostile opposition promised that "in the future, opposition members in both houses would not co-operate with the government on any schedule or agenda for the Parliament."

Pakistan's National Assembly has passed no major legislation in more than a year and, with the

opposition's latest promise of non-co-operation, is unlikely to pass anything substantive in the next few months.

A government spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Bickering between the ruling party, led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and her opposition of right-wing, centrist and religious parties, has crippled the National Assembly, which has been unable to agree even on committee memberships, said one parliamentarian, requesting anonymity.

The National Assembly, dominated by Benazir's

party and the Senate, controlled by her opposition, held its first joint session yesterday to debate a resolution of support for Muslim militants fighting to separate the Himalayan state of Kashmir from India, be independent or join Pakistan.

Benazir called the joint session but when it was ended after a three-hour sitting, her opposition charged her with betraying "the spirit of democracy."

The outburst followed violence last week in the southern port of Karachi between supporters of the ruling party and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement,

representing Indian immigrants to Pakistan following independence from Britain in 1947.

Each political party blamed the other for violence that left up to 67 people dead and almost 200 wounded.

A former ally of Benazir's, the MQM, joined her opposition last October and pledged 14 critical National Assembly seats to her opponents, who tried to unseat her with a no-confidence vote in November. Her party narrowly survived.

Since taking power in December 1988, Benazir's party has waged a pitched battle with the opposi-

tion, which dominates Pakistan's powerful Punjab province.

Its Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, former ally of Pakistan's late military president Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, vowed to unseat Benazir. Her party made an identical promise.

But political rhetoric is heating up, and observers predict it may be an attempt to force President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to insist Benazir seek a confidence vote.

A disputed clause in Pakistan's constitution suggests the President may have the power to make

that demand sometime before March 20, for he has not given his interpretation, but has asked both the opposition and government for their stance bickering.

However, neither side has taken any steps toward mending fences.

"If the government has decided to adopt an arbitrary and unilateral approach toward the functioning of Parliament, which is tantamount to a total betrayal of the spirit of democracy, then the opposition would be within its rights to pursue its own course," said the release.

Food poisoning 20 die in Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI, Feb 11, (Reuters): At least 20 villagers died of suspected food poisoning after a community feast in central India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today.

PTI said 150 others were admitted to hospital with symptoms of food poisoning soon after the party at Supa in Madhya Pradesh state yesterday. It did not give further details.

In other developments at least 18 people were killed and 50 injured when a bus collided with a truck in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday, a news agency reported.

Press Trust of India said the accident occurred near Farrukhabad. It said most of the victims were pilgrims returning from a ritual Hindu bath in the river Ganges, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the accident site. It was not clear if all the victims were in the bus.

Troops enforce Srinagar curfew

Govt braces for violence

SRINAGAR, Feb 11, (Agencies): Troops patrolled the curfew-bound city of Srinagar today to prevent demonstrations commemorating the sixth anniversary of the execution of a Muslim separatist leader.

The streets of Srinagar were deserted after the government announced a round-the-clock curfew would be enforced today.

Witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity said dozens of army trucks carrying soldiers rolled into Srinagar late Friday. Troops took up positions on Srinagar's outskirts and all vehicles entering the city were stopped and searched.

Wall posters appeared in several parts of Srinagar overnight, calling for demonstrations to commemorate the execution of militant leader Mohammad Maqbool Butt.

Butt was hanged in New Delhi on Feb 11, 1984, for the 1965 murder of an intelligence agent in Kashmir.

Butt founded the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, which is spearheading a violent campaign for secession from predominantly Hindu India of the Himalayan state of Jammu-Kashmir, the country's only Muslim majority state.

The four-decade-old movement is based in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state and its largest city. Jammu region, south of Kashmir, is Hindu dominated.

At least 82 people have died in the latest round of separatist violence in Kashmir, which flared Jan 20 when Muslim mobs took to streets and clashed with security forces. Most victims were protesters defying curfew, who were shot by police or troops.



Benazir Bhutto

Curfew has been restricted to night hours since Jan 26 because authorities said the situation had stabilised. But a curfew scheduled to be reimposed at 6 pm local time (1230 GMT) on Friday, was imposed at 11 am yesterday after the bombs went off.

Police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the blasts occurred outside two banks, a post office and other shops and businesses without causing any known casualties. No one claimed responsibility, but authorities blamed the separatists.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Kashmiri militants. Pakistan denies the charge and says the Kashmiris have the right to self-determination.

"We want a peaceful solution, but at the same time Pakistan

cannot be intimidated," Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto warned India during a 30-minute speech to more than 200 Pakistani lawmakers yesterday.

Benazir rejected India's accusations that Pakistan has fomented the two-month-old rebellion in its troubled north-western state.

"This revolution has not come from outside, it has come from the heart of the people," she said. "It is a war of freedom."

Leader of the combined opposition parties Chulam Mustafa Jatoi in his speech to the house said that the entire nation was united in support of the Kashmiri people. He said all the efforts prime minister was making in support of the Kashmiri people had the fullest backing of the opposition.

He, however, thought that a concerted offensive should be launched to mobilise public opinion in favour of the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. This would put lots of pressure on India to fulfil its commitment of a un-organised plebiscite to decide the future of the disputed state.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of Jamaat Islami group in the Parliament said the Indian government could not suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people who had risen against Indian occupation with renewed vigour and strategy.

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the Awami National Party, said in the present world no dispute could be solved through war. He pleaded for the resolution of the Kashmir issue through talks under the Simla accord between Pakistan and India.

Kashmir: from bricks to rockets Toughest challenge

SRINAGAR, India, Feb 11, (AP): Three years ago they threw stones at Indian security men. At the first sign of retaliation, they would run for cover and flee into the narrow lanes of Srinagar, only waving clenched fists as a gesture of defiance.

But today's Kashmir militants, most of them in their 20s, flash Kalashnikov rifles and make Molotov cocktails in their homes. Intelligence reports say they have acquired rocket launchers and even Stinger missiles.

Armed Muslim activists campaigning for Kashmir's independence are battling an estimated 40,000 Indian soldiers.

India now faces the risk of fighting a prolonged guerrilla war in Kashmir, said a retired colonel of the Indian Army. "And like most other guerrilla war situations, the odds are in favour of the terrorists," he spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Over the years these terrorists have graduated into becoming real fighters, not in the conventional sense, but as guerrillas," said Jijendra Narain Saxena, the director general of India's 40,000-man police force.

"Before the police could just scare them away. But today they stand up and try to defy," Saxena said.

Saxena would not discuss the reasons for the change of mood in Kashmir, where analysts say India faces the toughest challenge to its unity in the country's 42 years of independence.

But Gov. Jagmohan, the area's administrator, ruled out any threat to India's sovereignty.

"The issue is very simple," he said in an interview at his home guarded by Indian troops manning light machine-gun positions behind bunkers. "There was lack of economic development, people are frustrated."

"Once we set things right, Kashmir will again become 'Jannat' (heaven)," said Jagmohan, who uses only one name.

In the wave of separatist violence that began Jan 20 with the arrest of over 250 people, at least 82 people have died, Jagmohan, a Hindu, known as a tough administrator, ordered the Jan 20 crackdown.

The killings and open defiance by the militants triggered a near panic in the administration. Curfew was imposed for days, the army was called out and foreign journalists expelled from the state. Curfew passes granted to local journalists were withdrawn and Indian journalists waiting for foreign news were confined to hotels.

Jammu-Kashmir, home of 6 million people, is India's only Muslim majority state.

Nationwide, Muslim account for about 11 per cent of the country's 880 million people. But in the Kashmir Valley, the stronghold of the militants, Muslims make up 94 per cent of the 3.5 million people.

Kashmir became part of the Mogul Empire when Akbar invaded the area in 1586. The Afghans annexed it in 1738. The Sikhs came in 1819. A Hindu king took it over in 1846.

When Britain divided the subcontinent in 1947 into Islamic Pakistan and Hindu-dominated India, Kashmir was given the choice to either remain independent or join either of the two nations. After initial hesitation, the king joined India and triggered a Pakistan armed invasion.

A brief war followed and India claims that of the state's 222,236 square kilometres (85,894 square miles), Pakistan is in "illegal occupation" of 78,932 square kilometres (31,572 square miles). New Delhi also alleges that Pakistan gave 42,572 square kilometres (17,094 square miles) of territory to China when Islamabad and Beijing signed a boundary agreement.

"We are giving too much importance to the territorial dispute," said a senior Indian intelligence officer in Kashmir. "There is no way that they can fight the Indian forces to a decisive battle," the officer said on condition of anonymity.

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Karachi kidnap Activists swapped

KARACHI, Feb 11, (Reuters): Rival political groups in the Pakistani city Karachi swapped 39 kidnapped activists today after two days of army-brokered talks.

The release of 18 activists of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and nine from the Mohajir National Movement (MQM) followed four days of violence in which at least 70 people died.

Most of them were limping but able to walk on their own feet," a policeman said. One had been shot in the knee.

Leaders of both parties welcomed the release, organised according to official sources by senior army officers to help bring the curfew-bound city back to normal.

The death toll rose by two today, the fifth day since a riot erupted on Wednesday after a MQM called a general strike to protest at the abduction of its supporters.



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Galileo camera problem traced

PASADENA, California, Feb. 11, (UPI) — A computer glitch aboard the Galileo Jupiter probe Saturday caused the robot's primary camera to malfunction after an otherwise flawless flyby of Venus apparently was triggered by an easily fixed programming error, officials said.

Engineers at the jet propulsion laboratory spent the day studying the problem to figure out what caused the \$1.4 billion probe's camera shutter to erroneously open and close after the probe streaked past Venus late Friday.

Late Saturday, JPL spokesman Robert MacMillan said the problem was traced to a computer programming error in commands that had been radioed to the probe from earth — an easily corrected problem, although engineers did not expect soon to know the results of their troubleshooting.

"It's in the command sequence that was sent up," he said. "Somewhere in the entire Venus sequence, not enough time was allowed between some of the subsequent commands. That resulted in the erroneous commands from the computer."

He said Galileo managers decided to turn the camera back on late Saturday to take a series of 38 pictures of Venus as originally planned, adding "it's looking pretty good. They're really not very worried. There's no problem with either the command computer or the camera."

The brief scare was the only hiccup in an otherwise perfect flyby of Venus, a major milestone on the road to a 1995 encounter with Jupiter.

Using the cloud-shrouded planet's gravity for a slingshot-like boost back toward Earth and ultimately on to Jupiter, the 5,000-pound (2,300-kg) Galileo spacecraft sailed within about 10,000 miles (16,000 km) of Venus's hellish 900-degree (480 C) surface at 9:59 pm PST Friday (0559 GMT Saturday).

The "gravity assist" flyby boosted Galileo's velocity relative to the sun by about 4,900 mph (8,030 kph), to some 88,748 mph (142,810 kph), and put the craft on course for a Dec. 8 flyby of Earth, the first of two required to finish boosting the craft's speed high enough to reach Jupiter.

Galileo's high-tech instruments and sensors were operating throughout the Venus flyby, gathering important data about the second planet from the sun in a critical milestone.

But engineering data radiated from Galileo early Saturday indicated its camera system was receiving computer commands that were causing its lens shutter to open and close, twice per minute, when it was not supposed to be operating at all.

For several hours, starting at around 1:41 a.m., Galileo's command data subsystem computer ordered the solid-state television camera to open and close its shutter twice per minute. By the time the camera was turned off at 4:30 a.m. on command from Earth, 468 camera shutter cycles had been completed when only 16 had been expected.

Trump's wife calls it quits, dumps hubby

NEW YORK, Feb. 11, (UPI) — Billionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump is being dumped by his wife, Ivana, because he betrayed her, a published report said today.

Quoting unnamed sources close to the high-profile couple, the New York daily news said Mrs. Trump has decided to call it quits after a dozen years of marriage.

"Donald is betraying her," according to sources quoted by the Daily News.

Mrs. Trump is a former model who was born in Vienna and raised in Prague. The couple met at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal and married a year later.

They have two sons and a daughter. "The Donald," as Trump, 43, is called by his wife, was in Tokyo for the Mike Tyson-James Douglas heavyweight title fight. He could not be reached for comment on the report.

The News also said Trump has, in the past, been romantically linked to actress Catherine O'Connell.

TOKYO, Feb. 11, (Reuters) — Japan may be criticised for closing its markets to outsiders, but there are some imports the Japanese cannot say "no" to — the superstars of sports and showbiz.

Boxer Mike Tyson and the legendary Rolling Stones are in Tokyo this week on a highly lucrative pilgrimage to the world's new entertainment and performance fee centre. Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney is due soon.

"Tickets to see these gajin (foreigners) stars here go up to eight times what they would cost in the United States," says a source at Nikkei Entertainment, a trade journal for promoters.

In Japan, where cash flows plentifully but world-class entertainers and athletes run scarce, sponsors are willing to spend massive sums to have international names promote their products and their company image.

And the public seems to lap it up. Boxing legend Tyson made his first overseas title defence here in 1988, and came back to fight, and sensationally lose, to little-rated challenger James "Buster" Douglas today.

To bring the likes of Tyson, the Rolling Stones or Michael Jackson over and have a little charisma rub off, Japanese media, industrial and financial sectors fight out their own big match behind the scenes.

A survey by the daily Maimichi Shimbun showed that 155 companies paid to sponsor competitions in golf, tennis, soccer, track and field and the marathon in 1989, up from 41 in 1981.

A form of sponsorship called "Kansuri Kogyo" — literally "crowded entertainment" — has made it possible for the Japanese to enjoy hearthrobs and idols, still confined to glossy pages and videos for most of their fellow Asians. In real, live person.

But the existence of these sponsors doesn't make the tickets any cheaper.

"Japanese still have to pay a lot to see stars, despite the big corporations dishing out to get them here," says one public relations executive at CBS Sony, the Rolling Stones' recording company.

"And not all of it can be justified on air fares and accommodation. What it comes down to in the end is the enormous amounts that we pay the stars."

Sponsoring companies are tight-lipped about what the entertainers cost them because they often lose money, entertainment sources say.

Organisers of the Tyson-Douglas fight had seating capacity at Tokyo Dome expanded to 63,000, with admission prices ranging from 5,000 yen (\$35) to 150,000 yen (\$1,029). On the day, however, attendance was a disappointing 40,000.

Whatever the crowd guarantees from the promoters and television are expected to mean a minimum payday of some \$9 million for the Tyson camp and three million for new champion Douglas.

The Stones concert, an immediate sell-out, are expected to cost the various companies involved — corporate sponsors, ticket distributors, television and broadcasting companies and the venue — a whopping six billion yen (\$41 million).

"My understanding is out of that, about 4.5 billion (\$31 million) goes to the Rolling Stones' people," the source at Nikkei Entertainment said.

A sure-fire media hit like the Stones, touted as "the last big stars yet to perform in Japan" since immigration officials barred lead singer Mick Jagger in the 1970s because of drug involvement, can just name their price, sources said.

Now Toyota Motor Corp. and Minolta Camera Co. have flown in Mike Tyson while Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. presents the Rolling Stones.

Rock stars have yen for Tokyo business

Imports that Japanese just can't say 'no' to

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A form of sponsorship called "Kansuri Kogyo" — literally "crowded entertainment" — has made it possible for the Japanese to enjoy hearthrobs and idols, still confined to glossy pages and videos for most of their fellow Asians. In real, live person.

But the existence of these sponsors doesn't make the tickets any cheaper.

"Japanese still have to pay a lot to see stars, despite the big corporations dishing out to get them here," says one public relations executive at CBS Sony, the Rolling Stones' recording company.

"And not all of it can be justified on air fares and accommodation. What it comes down to in the end is the enormous amounts that we pay the stars."

Sponsoring companies are tight-lipped about what the entertainers cost them because they often lose money, entertainment sources say.

Organisers of the Tyson-Douglas fight had seating capacity at Tokyo Dome expanded to 63,000, with admission prices ranging from 5,000 yen (\$35) to 150,000 yen (\$1,029). On the day, however, attendance was a disappointing 40,000.

Whatever the crowd guarantees from the promoters and television are expected to mean a minimum payday of some \$9 million for the Tyson camp and three million for new champion Douglas.

The Stones concert, an immediate sell-out, are expected to cost the various companies involved — corporate sponsors, ticket distributors, television and broadcasting companies and the venue — a whopping six billion yen (\$41 million).

"My understanding is out of that, about 4.5 billion (\$31 million) goes to the Rolling Stones' people," the source at Nikkei Entertainment said.

A sure-fire media hit like the Stones, touted as "the last big stars yet to perform in Japan" since immigration officials barred lead singer Mick Jagger in the 1970s because of drug involvement, can just name their price, sources said.

Now Toyota Motor Corp. and Minolta Camera Co. have flown in Mike Tyson while Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co. presents the Rolling Stones.

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TOKYO, Feb. 11, (Reuters) — Japan may be criticised for closing its markets to outsiders, but there are some imports the Japanese cannot say "no" to — the superstars of sports and showbiz.

Boxer Mike Tyson and the legendary Rolling Stones are in Tokyo this week on a highly lucrative pilgrimage to the world's new entertainment and performance fee centre. Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney is due soon.

"Tickets to see these gajin (foreigners) stars here go up to eight times what they would cost in the United States," says a source at Nikkei Entertainment, a trade journal for promoters.

In Japan, where cash flows plentifully but world-class entertainers and athletes run scarce, sponsors are willing to spend massive sums to have international names promote their products and their company image.

And the public seems to lap it up. Boxing legend Tyson made his first overseas title defence here in 1988, and came back to fight, and sensationally lose, to little-rated challenger James "Buster" Douglas today.

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Writers' plea to save Rushdie

Cheap propaganda, say UK Muslims

LONDON, Feb. 11, (AP) — More than 160 writers world-wide appealed today to world leaders to help stop the death threats against British author Salman Rushdie.

The writers, including Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, a playwright, signed a statement prepared by the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and his publishers and carried by more than 20 newspapers world-wide.

Rushdie has been in hiding under police guard since Feb. 14, 1989, when the Ayatollah Khomeini accused him of blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses" and ordered his death. The edict was repeated on Friday by Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

But Muslim leaders in UK have dismissed as cheap propaganda an appeal by a group of international writers, calling on world leaders to end the alleged "persecution of Rushdie and his publishers."

The Muslim leaders said these statements are one-sided and had ignored the fact that the novel is offensive to Islam.

"We call on world leaders and all those in positions of influence to renew their efforts to end the persecution of Salman Rushdie and his publishers," said the writers' statement.

"We wish to restate that it is the right of all people to express their ideas and beliefs and to discuss them with their critics on the basis of mutual tolerance, free from censorship, intimidation and violence."

The writers said that by lawfully expressing his right to freedom of expression, Rushdie was committing no crime. It noted, however, that opponents of his book have attacked bookshops in Britain, and made threatening phone calls to his publishers.

In March, more than 1,000 writers from around the world signed a statement supporting Rushdie's right to freedom of expression and repudiating the death threat. It appeared in 62 newspapers and periodicals in 22 countries.

Sunday's statement was signed by Rushdie's wife, American novelist Marianne Wiggins, by Nobel prize winners Joseph Brodsky and Sir William Golding, playwrights Arthur Miller and Harold Pinter, Canadian novelist Margaret Atwood, poets Allen Ginsberg and Bei Dao.

South African writers Breyten Breytenbach and Nadine Gordimer, director-screenwriter Hanif Kureishi, and authors Catherine Cookson, Antonia Fraser, Kazuo Ishiguro, Edna O'Brien, Larry McMurtry, Toni Morrison, Susan Sontag and Kurt Vonnegut also endorsed it.

Rushdie's defence committee said the statement was published in newspapers throughout the world, including the Independent on Sunday and the Sunday Correspondent in London.

Later, a British columnist, Robert Harris, has said that recent words from Rushdie leads him to qualify his support for the novelist's cause.

Writing in the Sunday Times newspaper today, Harris said after a year of relative silence Rushdie has "burst into print with an interview, an essay and a lecture."

He added that "there is, for a start, an unpleasant smell of money hanging over all this, unpleasant because it contrasts so sharply with the high moral principles at stake."

Rushdie's essay was sold to a British newspaper for close to £100,000. On the same day, a rival newspaper which merely reprinted an extract from an article it bought off Rushdie a year ago received a bill for £5,000.

"To cash in on his predicament by asking exorbitant fees to defend his right to speak does not help his case, especially given the enormous sums already demanded of the British taxpayer for his round-the-clock protection," the writer concluded.

The national association of investigative specialists feels that it's the right of every American to conduct background investigations in order to rule out fraud, corruption and various types of potential losses, and this certainly applies to private parties involved with members of the opposite sex," Thomas said.

Thomas said his association found its members conducted only 108 premarital investigations in 1987. In 1989, they conducted 693 background checks.

The survey showed that 78 per cent of the people who initiated the inquiries were single women, 16 per cent were parents and only 3 per cent single men.

Thomas said the investigations of potential spouses are conducted for various reasons, but he doesn't think they are an invasion of privacy because the records that are checked are public documents.

4 shot dead in bowling alley

LAS CRUCES, New Mexico Feb. 11, (AP) — Robbers shot seven people in a bowling alley office yesterday, killing a man, his two young daughters, and another girl before setting a fire to try to cover up the crime, police said.

"What we have here is a very vicious crime, the assassination of kids," said Las Cruces police Capt. Fred Rubio. "A whole family was assassinated."

The three survivors and residents living near the Las Cruces bowling lanes gave police a description of two men believed to have committed the robbery and shootings.

Officers were manning 10 roadblocks into and out of this city of about 55,000 people, located 45 miles (70 kilometres) north of the Mexico border. A helicopter was being used and 80 per cent of the police department's criminal investigation staff was working on the case, Rubio said.

Rubio identified the dead as Steve Turan, a bowling alley worker believed to be in his 30s, and daughters Paula Turan, 7, and Victoria Turan, 2, and another girl, Amy Houser, 13.

He said Victoria was alive when the victims were found, but was pronounced dead on arrival at Memorial General Hospital.

The three survivors were taken to the hospital where they were in critical condition, Rubio said. He refused to release their names, citing security reasons and concern for their safety. He said one was 12, one was 30 and the third was in his or her 30s.

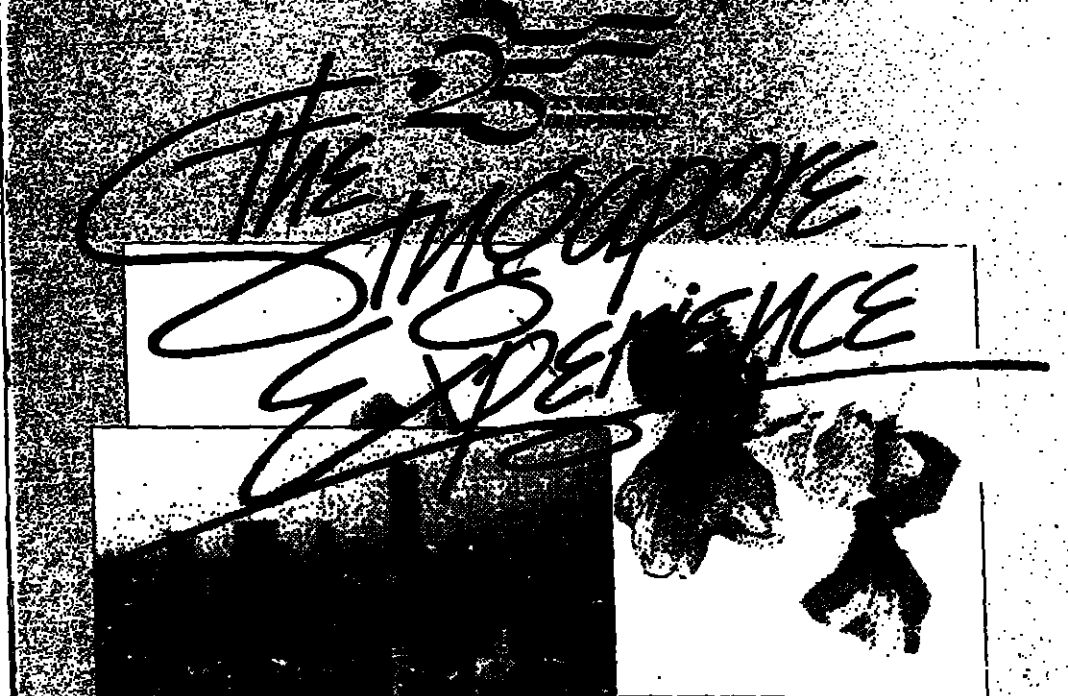
The police captain said a fire was reported at the bowling alley a half-hour after it opened.

Fire-fighters found the seven victims in the office.

"According to our preliminary investigation, they were rounded up and taken into that particular office," Rubio said.

They were concentrated in one area and shot in one area."

SINGAPORE FESTIVAL



Taste of Singapore comes to Kuwait in celebration.

A celebration of exotic Singaporean culture is being held at the Kuwait Hotel. The event features a variety of traditional Singaporean dishes, including chicken rice, laksa, and satay. There will also be a performance by a local Singaporean dance troupe. The celebration is open to all guests of the hotel.



The event is sponsored by the Singapore Consulate in Kuwait. For more information, contact the Kuwait Hotel at Tel. 5657000 ext. 401.

Love no longer blind: women seeking premarital probes

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 11, (UPI) — Premarital background investigations are becoming more common, suggesting that love is no longer blind.

The director of the national association of investigative specialists said its survey of a dozen high-volume investigative agencies showed the number of premarital background investigations jumped 800 per cent in the past two years.

Ralph Thomas, director of the 1,000-member association based in Austin,

Texas, said in an article scheduled for Valentine's Day publication in PI Magazine that some couples want their brains to control their heart in matters of love.

"These days we wait until we are out of college and established in a career," Thomas said. "Assets develop and someone comes along who wants to sweep us off our feet. Our heart just doesn't control the brain like it once did. Now our brain wants to control our heart."

Thomas said his association found its members conducted only 108 premarital investigations in 1987. In 1989, they conducted 693 background checks.

The survey showed that 78 per cent of the people who initiated the inquiries were single women, 16 per cent were parents and only 3 per cent single men.

Thomas said the investigations of potential spouses are conducted for

various reasons, but he doesn't think they are an invasion of privacy because the records that are checked are public documents.

The national association of investigative specialists feels that it's the right of every American to conduct background investigations in order to rule out fraud, corruption and various types of potential losses, and this certainly applies to private parties involved with members of the opposite sex," Thomas said.

Please,
not in
front of
my yard

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (AP): An aluminum village for the homeless is going up across the street from an expensive Washington apartment complex, but the high and mighty who live there are telling the city: "Not in my front yard."

The object of their dismay is a cluster of seven white trailers tucked into a small triangle in view of the Watergate, some of the loftiest apartments in the capital city. Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole and her husband Sen. Bob Dole, the most powerful Republican in the Senate, live in the Watergate. So do authors, high-ranking military people, big-name journalists.

The three apartment buildings and a condominium building flank the Watergate office building, which gained fame in 1972 when burglars organised by former President Richard Nixon's re-election committee were caught red-handed inside Democratic Party headquarters. The Watergate residents have filed suit to block the shelter for the homeless.

The seven trailers, hooked up to sewer and power lines, are behind the Howard Johnson's motel on Virginia Avenue — also a bit player in the Watergate saga as the site where the burglars placed their lookout with the recording equipment for bugs they planted in the Democrats' offices.

The trailers are ready for occupancy by up to 108 men and women, many of them now living on steam grates, patches of grass, benches and doorways in the area.

The 680 at the Watergate don't come straight out and say "we don't want to house the homeless."

Their lawsuit against the district of Columbia is more discreet, based on a claim that the city failed to run the shelter idea past the fine arts commission, which decides in certain areas whether a structure is appropriate.

Federal judge Oliver Gasch handed the residents a setback this past week by refusing to block work on the site. He said the area is outside the jurisdiction of the fine arts commission. The residents still can appeal the judge's ruling.

"What I would like to know is exactly what neighbourhood they would like to send these folks to," says Lois Williams, an attorney for the homeless. The taxpayers residents have an answer, through their lawyer, Vernon W. Johnson: a softball field four blocks away would be ideal.

In truth, many of the Watergate residents don't have much to look at anyway. The trailers are on a small patch of ground between the motel and a highway entrance ramp. And beyond that is a less-than-scenic pretzel of converging ramps and overpasses, with a few grates venting heat from a nearby power plant.

"It don't make a damn to me whether they open that shelter, I got my grates," said a tall, blue-eyed man named Mohawk, who's been living on the streets of the neighbourhood for 10 years. Still, the 62-year-old Mohawk said the showers in one trailer sounded good to him.

Tight security for Bush

US taking no chances for drug summit

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (UPI): Federal law enforcement authorities hope the Medellin cocaine cartel will keep its word this week and not try to shoot President Bush.

But they are taking no chances and plan massive security for Bush's trip Thursday to the drug summit in Cartagena, Colombia, which has the potential to be one of the most dangerous ever for a US president. In recent months, there have been unconfirmed reports that the drug cartels have placed a \$30 million bounty on Bush's head and obtained shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down Air Force One.

On Jan 29, in a battle of nerves, the Medellin cartel issued a conciliatory communique purportedly signed by fugitive kingpin Pablo Escobar saying it had no intentions of harming Bush.

The cartel also reiterated its plea for a negotiated peace with the Colombian government, turned over a ton of dynamite to police and released kidnap victims.

Said one US official, "I think this was an attempt to manipulate public opinion as the cartels try to drum up support against extradition of druglords to the United States. It doesn't tell you what they are

necessarily thinking other than it would be bad for business to try to harm the President.

"I don't believe the cartels — the Medellin of the rival Cali — will do anything," he said. "But perhaps a group of young toughs who want to make a name for themselves might try."

The one-day summit will bring Bush together with presidents of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. They will confer at a naval base, secured by an undisclosed number of US service agents and 5,000 Colombian soldiers and police.

"If I'm Pablo Escobar I'd have to think that if I tried something against the President of the United States, I'd have a delta strike force on my back in a minute," said Charles Gutenson, DEA chief of cocaine investigations.

Colombia

Drug fund perverting elections

BOGOTA, Feb 11, (AP): A former Colombian justice minister says several ruling Liberal Party candidates for mayor and congress are financing their campaigns with drug money.

Sen. Hugo Escobar Sierra, a member of the opposition Conservative Party, made the accusations in a letter to Liberal Party President Julio Cesar Turbay published yesterday by Bogota's La Prensa newspaper. The letter did not specify which candidates he claimed were taking thousands of dollars in drug money.

Escobar Sierra said that Liberal Party candidates in the northern state of Magdalena were "perverting" elections for congress and mayoralty by buying off their opponents with funds generated by "illegal dealings," the phrase used to denote drug trafficking in Colombia.

He added that members of his own party were abetting the process by accepting bribes, and that the problem was affecting many campaigns in the state, including the mayoral race in its capital, Santa Marta.

Congressional and mayoral elections are to be held March 11. Escobar Sierra served as justice minister in Turbay's 1978-1982 government, in which the government shared cabinet posts with the opposition.

Denunciations similar to Escobar Sierra's have been made previously in other states.

Another Conservative Party Senator, Rogelio Botasso, said last week in an interview published in Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper that he would not run for re-election in his home state of Narino because he could not compete with his opponent's campaign financing.



A Colombian marine walks on a jetty on Manzanillo Island Feb 10. (Reuter wirephoto)

Schizophrenia: physical

No psychological factors

ATLANTA, Feb 11, (AP): Telltale signs of schizophrenia such as awkward limb movements have been spotted in home movies of children who later developed the serious mental illness, a researcher said.

The study conducted by clinical psychologists at Emory University is the latest in a series of nationwide studies supplying evidence that schizophrenia is caused by physical rather than psychological factors, said Elaine Walker, who designed the study.

"The findings lend further support to the assumption that schizophrenia is a biologically based illness," Walker said.

Walker said the experiment looked over the past two years at the playful antics of some 200 pre-schizophrenic toddlers as depicted in early home films.

The scientists, with the help of neurologists, detected a variety of abnormalities such as awkwardly held arms and asymmetrical limb movements in the pre-schizophrenics, she said. Specifically, some

of the awkwardness was exhibited in the way the subjects held their hands while walking.

The subjects were compared to their healthy siblings to discount the effect of common factors in their environments that may have explained the abnormal movements.

"What we found is that there was an increased incidence of signs of motor dysfunction in the children who later became schizophrenic," Walker said. "Those kinds of signs tend to be associated with central nervous function problems."

"There was awkward hand-posturing, like when you are walking, rather than holding your hand down in the normal way, the hand was seen held upward and back," Walker said. "There were literally dozens of movements and other physical evidence, the kind of things detectable only to neurologists."

"She said the study could not determine how the irregularities in movement were connected to the later onset of schizophrenia."

Street News: a permanent shelter

Homeless tabloid hits NY stands

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (UPI): Cleveland Blakemore, who quotes Nietzsche, lived for six months in a plywood shack under a highway bridge.

Anthony Decandia lost his job and home when a mugger slashed his hand so badly he could not make a fist.

Jan Goldstein was on the streets three years before he was set on fire on night by nameless thugs.

But these three — out of thousands of New Yorkers who live on subways, in alleyways, and city parks — are the lucky ones.

Now, they say, they make up to \$500 a week as roving vendors for Street News, the city's newest tabloid. All three say they have found permanent shelter for the first time in years.

"I can't see how anyone couldn't get off the streets selling Street News," said Blakemore, 26.

Added Goldstein, "New York City doesn't give a damn about the homeless. When Street News came out I don't know what else I would have done. I'd given up on myself."

The 75-cent newspaper, a sporadic publication that contains a sometimes uneven mix of breathy, "get off your feet" columns, mediocre poetry, and celebrity reminiscences cannot be mistaken for a daily, or even a weekly newspaper.

Paul Newman writes in a recent issue about his experiences while filming "Blaze," actress Lisa Bonet is credited with a piece about her biracial upbringing,

and Donny Osmond lashes out at record censorship.

"We don't want it all to be about the downtown," said co-director Wendy Koltun, a former ballerina.

"You're not supposed to buy it because you're helping some homeless guy. You're supposed to buy it because it's something you enjoy reading."

If the paper seems top-heavy with celebrities, she said, that's to assure buyers that it's legitimate.

Indeed, the paper's prominently displayed board of advisors includes such names as Danny Aiello, Bill Blass, Christie Brinkley and James Taylor, as well as New York Mets outfielder Darryl Strawberry.

None of them have any real power over content — that rests with Koltun, executive editor Hutchinson Persons, and a six-member board of directors.

"We never said we could help every one," said Koltun, 31. "This is for those who are able to work and those who want to work."

Persons, 33, doesn't give interviews, but Goldstein likes to remember Persons telling how he was struck by his brainstorm while walking one day through crowds of homeless people in grand central station.

"He said to himself, 'hey wait a minute, a homeless person can sell newspapers,'" Goldstein recalled.

Persons contacted Koltun, who a year ago was running her own small charity

organisation, and the pair hit the swankiest executive suites in town.

In short order, Koltun and Persons extracted promises of financial support from old-line organisations including the New York Times.

"I got turned on by participating," recalled Times president Lance Trimis. "It's given the homeless a chance to do something. At least it certainly beats stepping over bodies on hot sidewalks."

In the six months since, Koltun said, 200 men and women have made enough money to find some sort of housing.

More than 1,000 vendors, many of them sporting Street News aprons, rags and caps, converge on a converted Blimpie's restaurant near Times Square.

Inside the tiny warehouse, walls plastered with movie posters, they wait patiently in line, some clutching fistfuls of cash to buy their bundles.

Then they head for the subways, competing for space already crowded by the city's vast corps of panhandlers.

One recent Tuesday afternoon, Goldstein picked up his daily allotment and caddled a token from a reporter to board the first subway car of his 7-hour workday.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am not a panhandler, I am not a drug addict," he told the passengers. "This is a newspaper designed and produced for the city's homeless. A portion in the proceeds helps find permanent shelter for homeless men and women."



Chamorro campaign

Opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro salutes supporters during a campaign swing through poor areas of Managua Feb 7. Elections are scheduled for Feb 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

\$5.1 b surplus in banks

Cocaine cash floods Miami

MIAMI, Feb 11, (UPI): Drug traffickers have been laughing all the way to the bank, laundering hundreds of millions in cocaine profits through several city institutions despite the efforts of federal, state and local investigators.

A federal grand jury is investigating Republic National Bank in one of the most intensive money-laundering cases in US history, and at least five other banks are under scrutiny, the Miami Herald reported today.

The Herald's six-month investigation found that Miami leads the nation with a \$5.1 billion cash surplus in its banking system, a tell-tale sign of the drug trade. Drug agent Al Coward said: "I suspect the skyline of this town would change dramatically if there were no cocaine."

Another indication of the volume of drug money is that car dealers in Miami transact six times as much business in cash as do dealers in the slightly larger Tampa-St. Petersburg area, the state comptroller's office said. In the past four years, \$433.6 million in cash was spent on cars in the area.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration seized \$210 million in cash and property in Miami in 1989, compared with Los Angeles' \$159 million and \$95 million in New York.

Federal agents, using sophisticated computers and stringent new laws, have been concentrating on the drug money trail as never before. But money launderers have become more sophisticated, too, increasingly hiding money in bogus loans, offshore bank accounts, shell corporations and electronic wire transfers that can move cash around the world in moments.

Federal agents cracked the most sophisticated money-laundering network in the nation's history last spring, a ring that allegedly used a south Florida gold refiner and Los Angeles jewellers to hide \$1.2 billion in 18 months for the Colombian drug syndicate known as the Medellin Cartel.

"You can seize drugs all day long and never get past the middle level," said David Wilson, the DEA's top money-laundering expert. "By going after the money, you strike at the highest point in the drug trade."

The success of this strategy depends upon the success of the cocaine trade to generate cash at

Chamorro support growing every day

MANAGUA, Feb 11, (AP): The main opposition coalition in the Feb 25 election has been hampered by fear, low funding, personal rivalry, ideological divisions and a presidential candidate with a fractured knee.

But it is drawing ever increasing crowds to its rallies, and its true strength may be even larger on election day.

The ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front's rallies are larger and better organised than those of the United National Opposition, but they are also salted with government employees who fear they would risk their jobs if they don't attend.

"You'll never see me at a UNO rally," said a 37-year-old Managua professional who spoke on condition of anonymity. "There's still a chance of violence, and who wants to get beaten up? But I'm voting for UNO. That's for sure."

The UNO candidate, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, publisher of the opposition newspaper La Prensa, suffered a fractured knee on New Year's eve and has been campaigning from a wheelchair in the back of a pickup truck under a sun tent, looking like "a saint at a procession," as one of her aides put it.

Attendance at UNO rallies has shot from several hundred into the thousands in the last three weeks — an estimated 7,000 in the town of Jinotega, 6,000 in Granada, 10,000 in Estel, 7,000 in Rivas.

"I know some people will come by tomorrow to rag you about having come," said Mrs. Chamorro in Estel, referring to the Sandinistas. "But just remember your vote is secret."

President Daniel Ortega, seeking another six-year term, has shed his sober image and campaigned vigorously in T-shirts and bomber jackets. The Sandinistas have also enlisted Alf, the US TV comedy character who is a favourite of Nicaraguan children.

Alf, a fuzzy space alien with a long snout, is pictured on wall murals as telling his planet Earth host Willy that he will vote Sandinista.

An inveterate cat-hater, Alf also is pictured squeezing the neck of a feline representing UNO. Sandinista spokesmen said they did not know if Alf's creators had given their permission for the alien endorsement.

Noriega defence

All the presidents' papers to be sought

MIAMI, Feb 11, (Reuter): Lawyers for Manuel Noriega plan to seek papers and diaries from five US presidents in an effort to defend the deposed Panamanian strongman against drug charges, according to court documents.

In a court motion unsealed late on Friday, the lawyers also said they would request documents from presidential briefings, information from US intelligence agencies in such countries as Panama, Colombia and Cuba, and transcripts of Noriega's phone calls with foreign leaders, alleged to have been taped.

Lawyers for Noriega, who has been held in Miami since surrendering to invading US troops in Panama on January 3, said they wanted to see files and diaries belonging to Presidents George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon.

Noriega is accused of aiding Colombian drug traffickers and pocketing \$4.6 million in bribes.

The defence team has said a major part of its strategy would be to expose sensitive US documents showing Noriega's long association with US intelligence agencies, Bush was director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

US presidents generally claim executive privilege to avoid releasing personal papers in court cases.



Rubino (right) shown leaving federal court in Miami Feb 8. (Reuter wirephoto)

LAURENCE

Worldwatch report for 1990 predicts bleak times ahead

Less meat, more cycles for sound eco-future

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (Reuters): A vegetarian meal in every pot, a solar heater on every roof and a bicycle in every garage are imperatives for an ecologically safe future, the Worldwatch Institute Environmental group said yesterday.

In its "state of the world" report for 1990, the Washington research group said a world dedicated to recycling, food and energy efficiency and slow population growth must be built within 40 years if modern civilisation is to survive.

"If we have not succeeded by 2030, environmental degradation and economic decline will be feeding on each other, causing social structures to disintegrate," said institute president Lester Brown.

Such declarations are not new for Brown, whose group has been predicting a dire fate in annual reports since 1984, and who is known for commuting via bicycle in a city where luxury cars are common.

This year's report devotes its final chapter to a detailed description of the "sustainable society" of tomorrow that Brown said is the Earth's last chance.

"A sustainable society is one that satisfies its needs without jeopardising the prospects of future generations," the Worldwatch report said.

It is filled with images of electricity-generating windmills in northern Europe, of solar water heaters meeting every household's needs, and of hydrogen-

powered cars and human-powered bicycles filling city streets.

Reducing dependency on fossil fuels will help forestall global warming caused by the atmospheric accumulation of carbon dioxide and other gases, which threatens to wreak havoc in world agriculture, Worldwatch said in the report.

Also, it said people in developed countries must get used to eating less as the food demands of a growing population will make it more difficult to use grains for feeding livestock or poultry.

The report offered the seemingly unappealing alternative of fish from sewage-fertilised ponds.

"A steady flow of nutrients from human waste

into ponds can supply food for a vigorously growing population of algae that in turn are consumed by fish," it said.

Brown said his ambitions for the world are more than fantasy, and that the technology he advocates is already available or within reach.

But essential to the plan is controlling population growth, the report said. Although the United Nations forecast a world population of nine billion people by 2030, that is about one billion too many for the available resources, it said.

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IN BRIEF

Quake forecasters claim: Greek scientists have claimed a 75 per cent success rate for an earthquake forecasting technique being tested in eight quake-prone countries.

"During the past year, several quakes measuring more than five on the Richter scale were predicted with reasonable precision as to the magnitude, the time and the epicentre location," said a statement from three Athens professors.

Their findings were presented to a conference on earthquake forecasting. The device, called Van, bases predictions on changes in the electrical field generated by movements in the earth's crust.

"By processing the measurements obtained from different locations it is possible to relate the date to an impending earthquake, obtaining at the same time its approximate epicentre, time and magnitude," said George Papadopoulos, head of the Athens University solid state physics department. (Reuters)

Screening of doctors for drug use: The prestigious Johns Hopkins hospital, seeking to ensure a "drug-free environment," announced plans Thursday to become the nation's first hospital to routinely test doctors for drug and alcohol use.

Drug testing has become a growing practice among government workers and in transportation fields. But Johns Hopkins' plan for random screening is believed to be the first time tests have been imposed on doctors at a hospital, said Dr Hamilton Moses II, Hopkins vice-president for medical affairs. (UPI)

Texas drug bust largest ever: Authorities confiscated an estimated \$20 million worth of illegal narcotics from storage lockers on Saturday in what may be the state's largest drug seizure ever, officials said.

Undercover agents cut locks on two storage lockers and found 132 cartons (60 kg) of methamphetamine or speed, with an estimated street value of \$20 million, said Sumner Bowen, a supervisor with the Alamo Area narcotics task force.

He said the seizure could be the largest in state history. The discovery follows Friday's raid on a San Antonio home that netted authorities numerous weapons, ammunition and a small amount of methamphetamine and marijuana. (UPI)

Jesuit slaying under study: A US delegation of three senators and a state attorney-general arrived in San Salvador to assess the progress and the state of the investigation of the slaying of six Jesuit priests, a US embassy spokesman said Saturday.

The main objective of the legislators and the prosecuting attorney (during their stay) is to gather information about the country's situation and, in particular, about the judicial process in the case of the death of the Jesuits, the spokesman said. (UPI)

Perrier recalled

Benzene traces

GREENWICH, Conn., Feb 11, (Reuters): The US importers of Perrier, the fashionable French mineral water recalled when unacceptable traces of benzene were found in a small sample of bottles, said yesterday the product would be off the shelves for two to three months.

The company announced on Friday it was pulling all its current stocks of water from stores across the country. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the state of North Carolina had found the chemical benzene at levels above federal standards in a sampling of bottles of Perrier produced between June 1989 and January 1990.

Ronald Davis, president of the Perrier group of America Inc, said an estimated 72 million bottles of the water were involved in the recall. Regular and flavoured Perrier is sold at 750,000 outlets around the country, Davis told a news conference.

He said when the source of the benzene is found and corrected, "we will introduce our product to consumers. We're planning to be back on the shelves in two to three months."

Tests found benzene levels of 12 to 19 parts per billion in 13 product samples, a level the FDA says would not pose an immediate health hazard.

Cory to snub Cheney

Aquino backs ex-Moro rebel for governorship

MANILA, Feb 11, (AP): President Corazon Aquino said today she will refuse to meet Defence Secretary Dick Cheney during his visit to the Philippines next week following criticism of her administration by US officials and media.

Cheney, who left Washington for Hawaii last Saturday, is expected to arrive here Feb 18 as part of a tour of the Far East.

In her weekly national radio address, Aquino cited unfavourable reports in US newspapers following recent visits by Robert Gates, President George Bush's deputy national security adviser, and US Rep.

Jim Kolbe of Arizona.

"I've been thinking that (during such meetings) we talk of one thing and afterward something else is published in American newspapers," Aquino said.

Aquino said that because of "our sad experience of the last two visits," only Secretary of Defence Fidel Ramos would meet Cheney during his visit.

In Honolulu, Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said Cheney's scheduled had not been

"nailed down" and "it's unsure whether we'll see Aquino or not."

Aquino routinely meets with scores of foreign officials, legislators, educators and businessmen. Her refusal to meet with a US official of Cheney's rank would be highly unusual, considering Bush's support for her administration.

On Dec 1, US Air Force jets flew air cover in support of pro-government forces battling military mutineers trying to oust Aquino.

The two governments are expected to begin talks next month on extending the lease on the six US military bases, which expires next year.

Following Gates' visit here last month, US officials delivered rare public criticism of the Aquino administration. During testimony last month before the House subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Carl Ford warned that the political situation here remains "unsettled."

During the same hearing, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Lambertson warned of the danger of a new coup attempt and said that corruption was hampering government operations.

Following a visit here last January, Kolbe said "Aquino favours retaining US bases but is in a 'very awkward position' politically because of others' opposition to them."

Aquino visited thousands of refugees displaced by fighting in the southern Philippines today and backed a former rebel to be governor of a semi-autonomous Muslim region.

Aquino shook hands with Christian and Muslim evacuees in the grounds of a school at Pikit in Maguindanao province and allocated 13 million pesos (\$580,000) for their rehabilitation.

Maguindanao and three other provinces which have voted to form a semi-autonomous region will hold elections for governor, vice-governor and regional assemblymen on February 18.

Aquino told local officials she was supporting Zaccaria Candao, a former MNLF rebel who returned to the government folds, as governor.

Manila quake kills 1, 25 hurt

MANILA, Feb 11, (AP): A strong earthquake that hit the central Philippines last week has triggered 1,233 aftershocks, officials said today.

Officials of private and government relief agencies said that Thursday's earthquake, which measured intensity 6 on the open-ended Richter Scale, killed at least one person, injured 25 and left 18,500 people homeless.

Janet Sarmiento of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said 48 of the aftershocks measured up to 4 on the Richter Scale. The others were too weak to be felt by residents but were recorded by instruments, she said.

On Thursday, a man was killed in quake-related destruction on Bohol Island, 655 kilometres (410 miles) southeast of Manila, the earthquake's epicentre. At least 1,530 thatched houses, five schools, nine bridges and a church tower were destroyed on the island, officials said.

In nearby Cebu province, 22 workers were injured when a vat of hot tar spilled at a construction site, officials said. At least three other people were slightly injured during a panic at a department store.

The open-ended Richter Scale measures the total strength of an earthquake and is calculated from readings of ground motion on seismographs. An earthquake registering 5 on the Richter Scale is considered "very strong" and 6 "severe," capable of widespread damage in populated areas.



Maddening crowd

Art lovers don't seem to mind the almost five-hour wait to gain access to El Prado Museum Feb 10 to visit the unprecedented Velazquez show. Thanks to rare loans from galleries and private collections throughout Europe and United States, Madrid's Prado Museum is offering an unrivalled display of the works by Spanish master Diego Velazquez. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jakarta eruption toll 16

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Feb 11 (AP): An erupting volcano killed at least 16 people and injured 50 more as it destroyed 150 houses in east Java, a news agency said today.

The eruption of Mount Kelud at noon yesterday darkened the sky with a mammoth dust cloud as it spewed volcanic dust, sand and gravel. The cloud stretched for 30 miles (50 kilometres), Indonesia's official Antara news agency said today.

The erupting 1,731-metre (5,679-foot) volcano killed 15 people and severely injured 48 more in Blitar regency, the report said.

In Kediri regency west of the peak, one person was found dead and eight were injured, Antara said.

Sightseeing copter, in flames, crashes: 1 hurt in NY

NEW YORK, Feb 11, (AP): A sightseeing helicopter carrying four tourists and a pilot caught fire and crashed into a river off New York City yesterday as it took off from a midtown heliport, police and witnesses said.

A 14-year-old passenger was in critical condition after the spectacular crash, which happened at about 3.15 pm (2015 GMT) and was watched by children attending a bar Mitzvah in a nearby restaurant. Rescuers pulled the other four shouting survivors from the water.

The pilot and three other adult passengers, including the injured boy's father, were taken with the boy to a hospital. The adults were all in stable condition suffering from exposure, said a hospital spokesman.

Police identified the injured boy as Robert Falter, of Hewlett, Long Island, and his father as Bernard Falter, 44, of Teaneck, New Jersey.

Ther, 44, of Teaneck, New Jersey, 25, and Fabiana Gomet, 23, both of France, police said. Their hometowns were unavailable. The pilot was Charles Rodda, 29, of Plainville, Long Island, said a police spokesman, Sgt. Pete Berry.

Police divers and a rescuer in a yellow life raft went out to save the passengers, with some of the survivors holding onto a board extended by the hoist until help arrived. Three rescuers were treated at a hospital for exposure.

Six firefighters and two police officers were treated at the scene for exposure.

Some witnesses said the Bell Jet Ranger 206-L copter burst into flames after impact. But police said flames were visible before the copter touched water.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the crash, said Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.



Hail Mandela

Crowds holding banners of freed nationalist leader Nelson Mandela shout slogans outside the South African embassy in Paris.

Reds asked to end monopoly

Mongolians rally

BEIJING, Feb 11, (AP): Mongolian reformists called for an end to the Communist Party's monopoly on power today at a rally drawing thousands of people, sources said, days after its Soviet counterpart abandoned its constitutionally-guaranteed "leading role" in society.

About 4,000 to 5,000 Mongolians attended the three-hour demonstration in front of the Lenin Museum in Ulan Bator, said a foreign source contacted by telephone from Beijing.

It was the fifth demonstration called by the Mongolian Democratic Union, founded in December by artists and intellectuals.

The rally was called hastily late Wednesday or Thursday, the source said, after the Soviet Communist Party voted to relinquish its decades-old hold on political power.

Mongolia, ruled by communists since 1921 and long a client of the Soviet Union, cautiously has followed the Soviet lead in embracing reforms, but apparently not quickly enough for some of its citizens.

Some speakers today called for the resignation of President Jambyn Batmunkh and of the politburo and criticised Premier Dumaagiin Sodnom by name for the nation's "stagnant" economy.

But speakers stressed they did not oppose the party, just its monopoly on power, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two banners showed the dissident group on one side of a saw and the party on the other, both cutting down a tree representing the bureaucracy, he said.

Other banners gave glimpses of some complaints of the Mongolian people. Some said: "Livestock to the herdsman." "If people are rich, the state will be rich," and asked: "Is it true we are saddled by loans?"

A reference to the Soviet Union's massive loans to Mongolia, put at \$5.5 billion by some economists, the source said.

Unlike previous rallies, dominated by union members, speakers today included a taxi driver, a factory worker, an elderly woman, a coal miner and a herdsman from the countryside, the source said. Many said they were members of the union, which claims a total membership of 60,000.

Some speakers recounted stories of union members being fired from their jobs or lectured because of political activities.

The union has called for an end to Communist Party influence over government affairs, debate on setting up a multiparty system, a full-time parliament and investigations of past repressive governments.

The source said the rally was peaceful, with almost no police or military presence. He said the museum apparently is not among sites where demonstrations were banned by the city council three weeks ago.

Historic summit
Open skies treaty

OTTAWA, Feb 11, (Reuters): After decades of hostility, foreign ministers from the 27 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries gathered today for a summit on President George Bush's proposal for an open-skies treaty that would allow conditional unarmed surveillance flights.

It is hoped the treaty, which some believe could be signed at a follow-up meeting in Budapest later this year, will provide a boost to disarmament talks and pave the way for a new era of trust between the once sworn enemies.

"An open skies agreement will form the basis for an institutional framework that will carry us from the old era of cold war confrontation to a new one of genuine security," Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said in an open letter.

Nato envisions a quota system in which all participating governments allow flights of unarmed fixed-wing aircraft over their countries.

The flight paths would be booked on relatively short notice by the intervening countries and the host nations would be allowed observers on board the aircraft.

Soviet officials say they would like to see a common fleet of aircraft operated by the two alliances and a sharing of the intelligence gathered.

The Russians also say while all their bases would be open to the flights, they would like to see the United States open its bases in Japan and elsewhere.

The treaty could help verify compliance in the proposed agreement to reduce conventional forces in Europe as well as provide a raft of information about military installations not seen by US and Soviet satellites.

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Japan poll system: no-one can change it

Candidates must battle not only rivals but also party colleagues

SAPPORO, Japan, Feb 11, (Reuters): What do you call an election when candidates must battle party colleagues as well as the opposition? For Shizuo Sato, campaigning to keep his seat in Japan's parliament, the answer is simple: "absurd."

"Everything bad about politics in Japan stems from our multi-seat constituency system," he said. "Politicians have to spend too much time doing things other than running the country."

On polling day, Feb 18, most voters will elect two to five candidates from each of their districts to represent them

in the lower house of the Diet.

While individual voters only choose one candidate, it is normal for parties to field multiple runners in a district in hopes of picking up more seats in the chamber.

In the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, the system has nourished factionalism as candidates look to different party elders for support against local LDP rivals vying for the same pool of votes.

Sato's first Hokkaido District on Japan's northernmost main island returns six members to the lower house,

the most extreme example of this multi-seat system.

A majority in that house gives the right to form a government. The LDP has won that right in every election since 1955, though sometimes only with the help of independents.

Interparty rivalry at the local level drags candidates away from the capital to campaign at home long before the official campaign starts.

For February's elections, Sato left Tokyo to pump hands in his constituency in early December, almost

two months before the chamber was dissolved.

All eight candidates fighting for the six seats of Hokkaido first said they would like to change to a single seat system.

"They've been calling for a change for decades," said Toshihiko Hara, a lecturer in social sciences at Hokkaido Tokai Tokai University. "But bringing about such a change is extremely difficult."

Tokyo-based LDP sources agree with Hara, saying a change to a single

seat system would mean reducing the number of lower house seats, currently 512. No-one wants to volunteer to step down, the sources said.

As it stands, candidates rely more heavily on personal appeal — hand shaking and visits to voters' work places — rather than their stance on issues to be elected.

As such, said Hara, "the function of the elections is not working properly," adding that without a proper discussion of issues during the campaign, elections don't reflect voters' majority

stance on problems facing the region and the nation.

Political analysts say the system has encouraged what the Japanese press has labelled "money politics" — the need for faction members to raise enormous sums in order to compete with others running on the same ticket.

A money-for-favours scandal involving parliamentarians and Japan's Recruit Co., a major publisher, contributed to the LDP's historic loss last summer — for the first time in three decades — of its majority in the less powerful upper house.

8 killed Thai-Burma border clash

BANGKOK, Feb 11, (UPI): Thai border forces killed eight Burmese soldiers and captured two others yesterday after a Burmese army unit crossed the frontier into Thailand while manoeuvring to attack a guerrilla camp inside Burma, military sources said.

The Burmese unit ignored warning shot and flares from the Thai forces and continued its incursion into Thai territory, prompting government border defence troops to open fire, a Thai officer said today.

The officer, reached by telephone in the Mae Sot district 250 miles (400 km) northwest of Bangkok, said the Burmese unit of about 250 soldiers forded the river into Thai territory about 1 am Saturday.

Japan women vote vital in polls

TOKYO, Feb 11, (AP): Despite their growing role in the work force and in society, women have been virtually locked out of any real power in Japan's biggest political party and there seems to be little they can do about it.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party does not have a single woman among its 325 endorsed candidates for the Feb 18 election for the lower house of Parliament.

Women outnumber men by 2.7 million among Japan's 90 million eligible voters, and many observers believe they will play a pivotal role at the ballot box in deciding if the conservative party's 34-year rule will come to an end.

Women voters demonstrated their electoral clout last summer, when the ruling party lost its majority in the upper house. Women voted for opposition candidates to express their disapproval of the ruling LDP.

In that election, chairwoman Takako Doi of the main opposition Japan Socialist Party successfully exploited the "Madonna factor" — the increase of women candidates, housewives' anger over a new sales tax and a sex scandal involving then-Prime Minister Sosuke Uno, who was accused of having kept paid mistresses.

Ms Doi, 61, is the first female head of a major Japanese political party and could become this nation's first female prime minister if the Liberal Democrats lose their majority in the 512-seat lower house.

However, even her party is fielding only eight women among its 148 endorsed candidates. Altogether, 66 of the 953 candidates running in the election are women.

A few Japanese women have been politically active since allied occupation reforms granted them legal equality after World War II. In the first postwar election in 1946, 79 of the 2,770 candidates running for office were women and 39 were elected.

Since then, women have gradually relinquished traditional roles to work outside the home — about 40 per cent of the work force is female — and the old social structure is being transformed.

They still face stubborn obstacles both in the workplace, where they are often told to pour tea and perform other menial chores, and in the political arena, where they have had to seek careers outside the ruling party.

Analysts attribute the Liberal Democrats' reluctance to back women — despite their obvious appeal to female voters — to old-fashioned thinking and the structure of Japan's electoral system.

"Society has changed, but the Liberal Democrats tend to be dominated by traditional thinking. They're behind the times," says Takeshi Sasaki, a law professor at Tokyo University.

Women have trouble gaining influence and financial backing while outside the factions that make up the conservative party. They aren't given endorsements because party leaders fear additional candidates would dilute support for incumbent, male candidates, he says.

"The Liberal Democrats couldn't just go out and recruit lots of women candidates. They're hampered by their own traditions and power struggles," Sasaki explains.

Gunman fires shots at Nakasone office

Second shooting incident during poll campaign

TOKYO, Feb 11, (Agencies): A 23-year-old man walked into a campaign office of former prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone today and fired several shots, but there were no reports of injuries, police said.

It was the second shooting incident involving a Japanese politician in a month.

A police official said Nakasone was away campaigning for an upcoming parliamentary election at the time of the attack. The man, identified as Koji Konishi, was captured at the office in Takasaki, 100 kms (60 miles) northwest of Tokyo, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Konishi told police he was a member of the Seiji Kessha Kokuyukai (political organisation for those concerned about the nation), believed to be a rightist group, the police spokesman said.

Eleven people were in the office when the shooting occurred, but none was injured, the official said. The gunman fired three shots at a television set, a campaign poster and doll symbolising good luck, he said.

The motive for the shooting was not immediately known, police said. Nakasone, who served as prime minister from 1982-87, is running for



Moon appeal

Moon Ik-Hwan, the dissident pastor who was sentenced to 10 years in prison last year for making an illegal trip to communist North Korea in early 1989 is helped by guards to a Seoul court Feb 10 to hear the results of his appeal of the court's ruling. A higher court reduced the sentence to seven years for Moon, who has been very ill in hospital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Western values

China says no

BEIJING, Feb 11, (AP): An authoritative weekly magazine says the United States and the West have been trying for 40 years to export their values, but China will never allow "bourgeois liberalisation" to undermine its socialist system.

In its latest edition, the Beijing Review said a US policy of promoting "liberalisation" in China, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries goes back to US secretary of state John Foster Dulles in the 1950s.

While not mentioning political reforms in other socialist nations, the commentary: "Let no one have the illusion that China will make any concession on so great an issue."

The article was part of a major propaganda campaign to convince Chinese and the outside world that China will remain a bastion of socialism, regardless of changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

During the past week, following the decision of the Soviet Communist Party to cede its guaranteed monopoly on power, the official media has barraged the nation with editorials stating that only the Communist Party has the mandate to rule China.

The Beijing review quoted a 1953 speech by Dulles in which he called for the "liberation of these captive peoples" behind the "iron curtain."

Taiwan president nomination for Lee

TAIPEI, Feb 11, (UPI): The ruling Kuomintang's central committee voted unanimously today to nominate President Lee Teng-hui and secretary-general Li Yuan-Zu, a dark horse candidate, as its candidates for president and vice-president.

Both Premier Lee Huan, a former vice-presidential hopeful, and Justice Minister Lin Yang-Kang came before the 180-member body to advocate replacing the traditional process of open voting with a secret ballot. The motion was defeated by the central committee by a vote of 99-70.

"The Kuomintang's 13th central committee has chosen me as its presidential candidate," said Lee, whose nomination for his first full six-year term was virtually assured beforehand. "This is a major responsibility, and I pledge to safeguard the interests of the whole country, as well as of my party."

The 67-year-old Lee took over as head of state after the death of the late president Chiang Ching-Kuo in January 1988.

The National Assembly will elect the president and vice-president on March 21-22.

Although much more controversial, Lee's selection of Li Yuan-Zu also was approved in a show of hands by all 180 members, including six alternates, of the central committee at today's extraordinary plenary session on Yangmingshan in Taipei.

Li, 67, a native of Hunan province, was appointed secretary-general to the President by Lee after almost fading into political obscurity after heading the justice and education portfolios under Chiang Ching-Kuo.

He is widely seen as a "neutral party" in an election that has been fraught with division and power struggles, most notably by conservative senior National Assembly members who support Gen. Weng Chang, secretary-general of the National Security Council and half brother of Chiang-Kuo, and factions supporting Premier Lee.

But while Lee today described Li as a "man of action and few words," the reticent secretary-general has left observers unsure of his positions on major issues.

"His stance on the most basic of political issues is not clear," said Lu Ya-Li, a political science professor at the National Taiwan University. "President Lee chose him because he most fits the conditions" set forth by the Kuomintang for a vice-presidential candidate.

re-election to the House of Representatives in the Feb 18 election.

The other recent political shooting occurred on Jan 18 when the mayor of Nagasaki, Hitoshi Motoshima, was shot in the back as he left city hall. A member of a rightist group, Kazumi Tajiri, has been charged with attempted murder in the attack.

Motoshima had received numerous death threats after saying in December 1988 that late Emperor Hirohito shared responsibility for Japan's participation in World War II.

Many rightist groups rever the emperor and Japan's imperial system.

With the ruling party at a turning point — damaged by almost two years of scandals and unpopular tax and farm policies — voters have a difficult choice: policies as usual or the uncertainty of a multi-party coalition led by the socialists, the largest opposition group.

Quoting the pro-business, conservative Liberal Democrats could signal more difficult trade relations with the United States. Political uncertainty has already bred instability in stock and currency markets in Japan and elsewhere in the world.

The Socialist Party, seeking wider appeal, watered down its longstanding opposition to the security treaty under which US troops are based in Japan. But it is clear that a leftist-led coalition government would mean a re-ordering of Tokyo's relations with Washington.

Most analysts predict the Liberal Democrats will retain a simple majority of 257 seats in the 512-seat lower house. But a big drop from their current 295 seats could create a significant realignment of power.

Polls show that many voters remain undecided, making the last week of campaigning all the more crucial.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the leading economic daily, reported Friday that a telephone poll of 10,000 people showed 32.4 per cent were undecided, while 34.1 per cent said they would vote for the Liberal Democrats, 20.9 per cent for the Socialists and the remainder for other parties. No margin of error was given.

Now that the Recruit Co. influence-peddling scandal and the sex scandal that helped drive two prime ministers from office last year are out of the media spotlight, public anger has subsided, say political analysts. But two Liberal Democrats who are on trial for bribery for their roles in the Recruit affair are running for re-election, reviving memories of the scandal.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, scrambling for support one week ahead of a pivotal election, pleaded with audiences today not to turn Japan over to socialist leaders at a time when the rest of the world is embracing capitalism.

Preliminary agreement announced:

The superpowers have announced preliminary agreement on a US plan for a 10-year phase-out of their chemical weapons stockpiles, but they linked total elimination of such weapons to a world-wide ban. It was reported in Moscow.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told a news conference yesterday, after three days of talks with US Secretary of State James Baker III, that the superpowers reached accord on "a prospective agreement of principle."

"We believe such an agreement could be signed during President (Mikhail S.) Gorbachev's visit to the United States," he added. The Soviet leader is scheduled to travel to Washington in June to meet with US President George Bush.

The announcement had been expected after Baker's lengthy talks with Shevardnadze and Gorbachev in Moscow. (AP)

World War II bomb found: British army experts were Sunday tackling an unexploded World War Two bomb unearthed during excavation work in Liverpool, northern England.

City engineers discovered the 2,200 pounds bomb yesterday 20 feet down a hole they had been digging there.

A special royal engineers bomb squad travelled to Liverpool to deal with the German Second World War bomb probably dropped during the blitz over Liverpool in 1941, the British media said.

More than 200 residents were evacuated from their homes and spent the night in a nearby sports centre. Roads were closed and traffic diverted. (Kuna)

Tremor shakes Turin: A sharp earthquake jolted Turin today morning, provoking scenes of panic among the population but causing no casualties or serious damage.

The tremor, which occurred at 8 am, registered 4.2 on the Richter scale and had its epicentre just west of the city, seismologists said.

The quake cut electricity for about a minute throughout Turin, set off car and burglar alarms and sent many residents rushing out of their houses into streets and courtyards. Police and fire department switchboards were flooded with calls from alarmed citizens. (AP)

Police blundered: Niger's military government says its police blundered in shooting and killing students during a protest in the capital of Niamey. Niamey radio said today.

The government-controlled radio, in a broadcast monitored in Abidjan Ivory Coast, said an inquiry was under way to establish who was responsible for the police action.

The radio quoted Information Secretary Saidou Arouf. "Arouf said that what happened in Niamey on Friday was simply a blunder by the law enforcement forces — a blunder which has left three dead..." the radio said. (AP)

Wiesenthal film honoured: Renowned Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal was in Berlin yesterday to pay tribute to the actor who played him in a film of his life story.

Wiesenthal had nothing but praise for the television film, a US production entitled "The Murderers Among Us — The Simon Wiesenthal Story," starring British actor Ben Kingsley.

Soviet premier on tie-boosting tour of Thailand

BANGKOK, Feb 11, (UPI): Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov arrived today in Thailand on an official two-day visit expected to focus on the Cambodian conflict and expansion of Soviet economic ties with the region.

Ryzhkov, arriving on a special Aeroflot plane, was greeted by Thai Prime Minister Chuanphavan and other senior ministers.

The Soviet premier was scheduled to tour Thailand's royal palace and visit a textile factory before a formal dinner tonight and official talks with Chuanphavan tomorrow.

Ryzhkov, fresh from supporting President Mikhail Gorbachev's moves toward a multi-party Soviet system, was expected to discuss efforts to end the conflict in Cambodia, where Thailand and the Soviet Union back opposing sides.

The Soviet Union provides arms to the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam in 1978 while Thailand has long acted as a conduit for Western and Chinese aid for the three-party anti-government coalition.

Both Thailand and the Soviet Union, however, have urged their Cambodian allies to find a political settlement to the conflict.

Ryzhkov was also expected to seek better trade ties with Thailand, one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

Thai exports to the Soviet Union totalled \$400 million last year while Soviet exports to Thailand reached only \$80 million.

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Big 5 resume Cambodia talks to enhance UN role in peace process

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 11, (AP): Representatives of the five permanent Security Council members resume talks on Cambodia today with other nations closely monitoring efforts to enhance the UN role in the peace process.

Officials scheduled a working dinner tonight to open two days of discussions on Cambodia. On the agenda is a proposal for the United Nations to administer the South-East Asian country and supervise its elections.

The full 15-member Security Council would have to approve the plan to clear the way for a heightened UN role. Western diplomats familiar with the negotiations say the New York meeting is just one step in what they predict will be a lengthy process.

Participating in the meeting will be Foreign Ministry officials, including Xu Dunxin of China, Yuri Miakotnykh of the Soviet Union, David Gillmore of Britain, Claude Martin of France and Richard

Solomon of the United States.

The Japanese government is closely following attempts to enhance the UN role in Cambodia, said a Japanese diplomat.

The Japanese diplomat said his government considers bringing peace to Cambodia a high priority, but is concerned about the level of funding necessary for a peace plan including a major UN role.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said he welcomes the opportunity for the United Nations to con-

tribute to the peace process, but stressed that the world body must be given enough resources to be effective.

The Japanese diplomat also said he would like to see more sessions on Cambodia that included other countries, particularly those who have already demonstrated a desire to actively seek peace. He said that in addition to Japan, those would include Australia, Canada and the six members of Asean — the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

فكتنا من الزلزل

كنا في العراق

Soviets want to end the post-war division of Europe

Unification of Germany will come about quickly, says Genscher

WEST BERLIN, Feb 11, (Agencies): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said today the Soviet leadership cleared the way for German unification because Moscow officials believe it would improve European stability.

Genscher, appearing on national television less than an hour after returning from Moscow with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, repeated Bonn's assertion that unification will come about "very quickly."

In East Berlin, the official news agency ADN said President Mikhail Gorbachev's support for unification means the Soviets want to end the post-war division of Europe. In just four months, the official East German stance has been transformed from one of bitter denunciations of any talk of German unity to one of acceptance.

For East German leaders, the only question remains one of time, although events are clearly sweeping the process forward much more quickly than almost anyone could have imagined.

After meeting with Gorbachev in Moscow, Kohl said he expects all four victorious World War II allies to agree before the end of the year on a plan to unite Germany. "General secretary Gorbachev told me unequivocally that the Soviet Union will respect the decision of Germans to live in one state," Kohl told a news conference.

The Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain retain official rights over Berlin as the victors in the war against Nazi Germany.

In explaining the reasons for the clear Soviet support, Genscher said today that a unified Germany would be a gain for the "partnership of stability that is indispensable between East and West."

"And that is certainly one of the reasons why the Soviet leadership now has spoken out in such a clear way in favour of unification of the two German states," Genscher said on the round-table discussion on the ARD television network.

He asserted: "An artificial maintenance of the division (of Germany) would mean a loss of stability for Europe."

The West German foreign minister repeated Bonn's opposition to a neutral Germany, and said the Soviets see "several possibilities" for resolving the thorny issue. He did not name them.

Genscher also promised that a unified Germany with nearly 80 million people will be mindful of the numerous concerns of its European neighbours.

"We don't want a German Europe, but rather a European Germany," he said.

All of East Germany's political parties have said that unification is inevitable.

One leading political party, the Social Democrats, says it will start talks on unification with Bonn if it heads the government after the nation's first free elections on March 18.

ADN, the official news agency, said today: "Forty-five years after the end of World War II, the Soviet Union is firmly committed to end the time of the division of Europe."

However, the news agency also said that from Moscow's viewpoint several questions remain open, including that of the military status of a united Germany.

"I thank general secretary Gorbachev that he has made possible this historic outcome," Kohl told reporters last night in Moscow.

"This is a good day for Germany and a good day for me personally," a smiling Kohl said after meeting with Gorbachev for two hours.

Kohl was asked directly whether German reunification would be completed before a pan-European security conference in 1992 that will discuss the changing European order.

"I do not believe that the decision requires such a long time to be taken," Kohl said. "We are in a very dynamic process that is not being accelerated by us, but by East Germany."

"They are saying that they are people and they want the results of free elections to be respected. This is something we should abide by."

About 20,000 people demonstrated for speedy German reunification late Saturday in the southern East German city of Plauen, the official East German news agency ADN said.

Many people in the crowd carried West German flags, the agency said.

Baker declined to commit himself on the wider issue of most favoured nation (MFN) status, which would give Romania important trade concessions.

"We are re-examining our position on MFN," he told reporters. "(It) will depend on... continued movement toward free and fair elections, openness, freedom and democracy."

Baker met the leaders of the political opposition to the ruling National Salvation Front at the residence of US ambassador Alan Green and reporters asked whether he shared the opposition suspicion of the front.

"I'm not sure I would characterize it that way," he said.

"It is very important that the opposition be given adequate access to the media, that the preparation for the forthcoming election be fair and complete and

to Germany remaining anchored in the Atlantic alliance."

Jane Sharp, senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, commented: "You don't want a very powerful, unified German state unassociated in the middle of Europe."

"You must have Germany anchored and preferably to the West," she said. "You can't have Germany on the loose."

East German Premier Hans Modrow has suggested that a combined nation be neutral. West Ger-



Beat'em

US Secretary of State James Baker told Bulgarian opposition leaders shortly after his arrival on Saturday that united they could topple communism.

Baker, the highest ranking US official to visit Bulgaria, was greeted by about 1,000 people holding banners and shouting "democracy, democracy" and the Communist Party is the Mafia" as he arrived at his hotel in Sofia.

"You are the people who have brought Bulgaria to the threshold of a new age of democracy. We admire your courage, your vision and your persistence. The United States supports free and fair elections for Bulgaria," he told the crowd.

Officials said the high point of his stay was a two-hour meeting with 17 opposition leaders who described the problems they faced trying to weaken the Communist Party's 45-year grip on power.

"United, you are much stronger. You are facing a very powerful opponent, but you have the hopes and aspirations of the people. If you stay united, you can win," an official quoted him as saying. Picture shows people holding banners and showing victory sign gather in front of Sheraton Hotel in Sofia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Baker offers Romania aid

Food for the hungry

BUCHAREST, Feb 11, (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker visited Romania briefly today and announced that \$80 million in food aid would be made available to the hungry East European country.

His hosts, smarting from recent US criticism of their stalling progress towards democracy, took the hastily arranged four-hour visit and Baker's promise as indicating that Washington now believed they were firmly committed to democracy.

"I see the presence of the secretary of state as bringing our relations onto a new basis," said Prime Minister Petre Roman. "I think that from now on we can really speak about American aid."

"I mean not only humanitarian aid, I mean aid to rebuild Romania."

Baker declined to commit himself on the wider issue of most favoured nation (MFN) status, which would give Romania important trade concessions.

"We are re-examining our position on MFN," he told reporters. "(It) will depend on... continued movement toward free and fair elections, openness, freedom and democracy."

Baker met the leaders of the political opposition to the ruling National Salvation Front at the residence of US ambassador Alan Green and reporters asked whether he shared the opposition suspicion of the front.

"I'm not sure I would characterize it that way," he said.

"It is very important that the opposition be given adequate access to the media, that the preparation for the forthcoming election be fair and complete and

that the timing of the election be such that the opposition is given a fair opportunity to compete."

Access to the media has been one of the opposition's main demands. Andron Ratiu, a senior figure in the National Peasants' Party, said yesterday his request to President Ion Iliescu for permission to set up an independent television station had been returned with a curt "no."

Baker told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Roman: "I have come to Romania to encourage the continuation of the process of reform and the movement towards free and fair elections in a peaceful and stable manner."

A Romanian government spokesman said Baker had made clear that the aid and trade concessions which Bucharest urgently needs would depend on its visible commitment to multi-party democracy during the run-up to elections scheduled for May 20.

Last week in Prague Baker said there would be no US aid for East European governments which wavered in the transition to democracy.

He then mentioned East Germany and Romania as examples of backsliders on the path to democracy.

Baker had a similar message yesterday from Bulgaria's Communist government.

Romanian spokesmen expressed themselves well satisfied with the tone of today's meetings, during which Baker also met Iliescu, opposition leaders and Lazlo Tokes, the Protestant Pastor whose resistance to the Securitate secret police sparked December's uprising which deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

A string of regional Communist Party bosses in the Ukraine have been forced out of office as discontent sweeps the area ahead of elections early next month.

Anatoly Vinnik, Communist Party chief of the big Ukrainian coal region of Donetsk, has resigned after more than half of the speakers at a party meeting condemned his handling of the post, the government daily Izvestia said.

The official Tass news agency said regional party leaders in Ivano-Frankovsk, Khmelnytsky and Yuzhgorod, all in the Ukraine, have also been sacked.

Moldavia now seeks autonomy

KISHINYOV, Soviet Union, Feb 11, (Reuters): At least 50,000 people massed in the Moldavian capital today to applaud speakers of both the ruling Communist Party and a radical opposition group demanding greater autonomy.

The rally in Kishinyov's Victory Square signalled a sharp drop in tension between the southwestern Soviet republic's Romanian-speaking majority and minority Russians two weeks before local and regional elections.

It was also a turning point in the Communist Party's battle to regain prestige lost during years of what is widely regarded as misrule.

The demonstrators, waving hundreds of red, yellow and blue Romanian national flags, cheered local Communist Party chief Pyotr Luchinsky who took over the post last November.

They also applauded speakers of the Popular Front whose programme calls for an overhaul of the republic's institutions, demilitarisation of its territory and the introduction of its own currency and a mixture of state and private enterprises.

"We need to elect people who will solve our problems quickly and not just analyse them," the bespectacled Luchinsky told the crowd in the square and surrounding streets.

The Soviet official in charge of food supplies has warned that meat production, already woefully inadequate, could plummet because of a lack of grain needed to fatten livestock.

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Too late to prevent mass poverty

Yeltsin warns of civil war

LONDON, Feb 11, (AP): Soviet maverick Boris Yeltsin was quoted today as saying that civil war could break out in the Soviet Union if the Communist Party does not reform quickly.

The next few months would determine if there was to be progress or anarchy, but it might already be too late to prevent mass poverty, he was quoted as telling the Sunday Times of London.

"The economic results for January are not even zero, they are minus. I don't remember having such bad results even at the peak of stagnation," Yeltsin was reported as saying. The 18-year rule of Leonid Brezhnev, who died in 1982, is referred to by present reformers as a period of stagnation.

The weekly's editor, Andrew Neil, and Peter Millar, its central Europe correspondent, said Yeltsin talked to them last week in his office near the Kremlin.

They said Yeltsin told them he is

prepared to form a breakaway party if hardliners are not removed from the party leadership at its next congress in early summer.

Yeltsin was quoted as accusing Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev of pandering to the hardliners, his every step toward reform "too little, too late."

Yeltsin has won wide popularity with his anti-establishment stance and calls for more radical reform.

Yeltsin was dumped from his job as Moscow Communist Party chief in 1987 after his outspoken criticism of party leaders. He was later given a state post in construction.

The 58-year-old former engineer parlayed his image as a fighter for justice and victim of the party bureaucracy into a sweeping victory in elections for the Soviet congress of people's deputies last March, when he won 89 per cent of the Moscow

vote.

As a national legislator, Yeltsin has emerged as a leader of the fledgling opposition to Communist Party leaders.

Yeltsin, who was the only member of the party's central committee to vote against Gorbachev's reform plans on Wednesday, said the Soviet people will take to the streets if reform continues at a slow pace.

He said he voted against the Gorbachev proposals because they were vaguely presented without a written draft and did not satisfy the groundswell of popular discontent, the report said.

"The most important thing is whether we will be able to control it within some civilised limits as in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria or East Germany, or, since, we have such a monster as the KGB (secret police), whether we will follow the Romanian pattern and have civil war; this is the biggest danger," he was quoted as saying.

Romania in grip of mass protests

BUCHAREST, Feb 11, (AP): Drivers demanding better working conditions surrounded government headquarters with hundreds of trucks and buses during a protest over policies inherited from pre-revolutionary days.

The drivers' demonstrations yesterday coincided with a march by 100 army soldiers who want better pay and rallies by tens of thousands of ethnic Hungarians to demand equal rights.

All the protests represent challenges to a struggling revolutionary government, which has been battered by critics who say it is perpetuating both the policies and the personnel of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He was toppled in December in a popular uprising combined with an army rebellion.

The drivers, who huddled with entire families in trucks at Victory Square, said their basic equipment and supplies — such as tyres, engine oil and batteries — were still being rationed very severely.

Their union, the 100,000-member Romanian Drivers' Syndicate, also claimed that police have used harsh tactics against them.

Some of the bus drivers, whose buses and equipment belong to the Ministry of Tourism, also called for reinstating Tourism Minister Mihai Lupoi, who last month pleaded their case before the government.

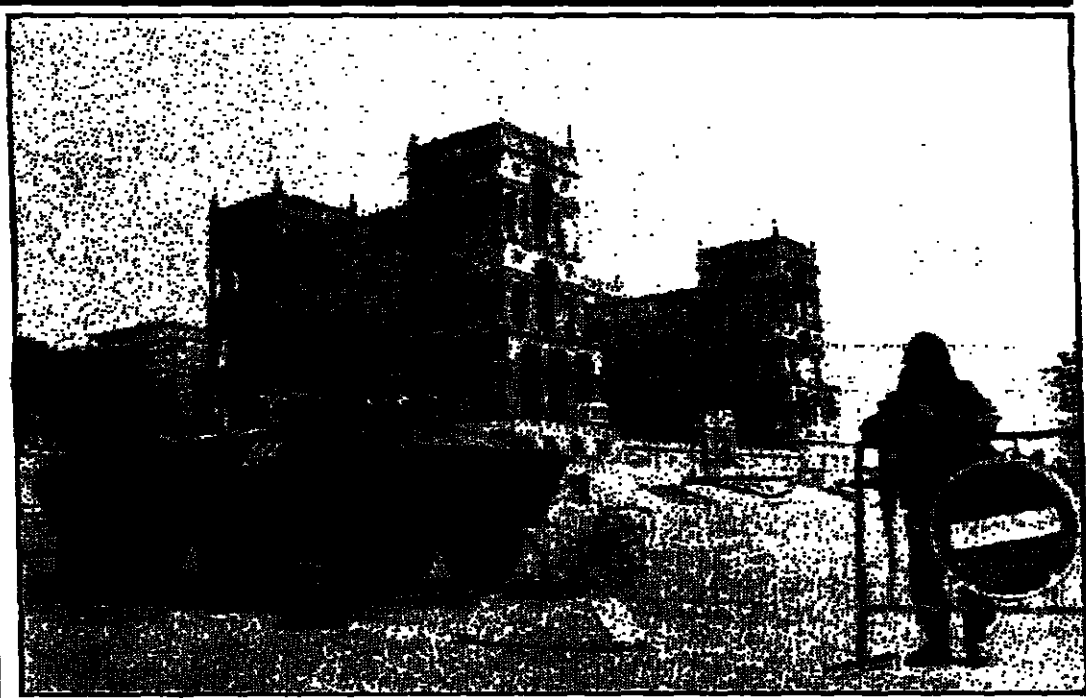
Thousands of members of Romania's hated Securitate secret police have eluded authorities and may be plotting a "counter-revolution" to seize control, Timisoara's mayor warned.

Tirgu march

BUCHAREST, Feb 11, (Reuters): Ethnic Hungarians, whose protests stirred Romania's anti-communist revolution in December, demonstrated in the central Romanian town of Tirgu Mures yesterday for greater minority rights.

The national Rompres news agency said some 40,000 mostly young people held a peaceful march through the town carrying candles and banners demanding separate schools for the Hungarian community.

Teaching in Hungarian has been a key demand of the two-million-strong minority group since the December overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. But most Hungarians feel change is coming too slowly.



Emergency still in force

A soldier stands next to his APC on guard in Lenin Square Feb 10. The state of emergency is still in force and Soviet Interior Ministry troops continue to control Baku, Azerbaijan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Banana 'split'

Honecker played Santa in a corrupt state

EAST BERLIN, Feb 11, (AP): Erich Honecker "blessed" his people with bananas at Christmas while overseeing a state so corrupt that its officials even stooped to stealing money from private mail, prosecutors say.

The revelations, the most thorough expose to date of corruption under Honecker's rule, were made at a news conference Wednesday by Lothar Reuter, East Germany's deputy chief prosecutor.

The ousted hardline communist and a number of his lieutenants are awaiting trial on charges ranging from high treason and human rights violations to misuse of public funds.

Reuter said that during 40 years of communist rule, corruption reached from top to bottom. He said prosecutors working across the nation still haven't uncovered all the details.

Reuter said prosecutors across East Germany have been overwhelmed with the casework. But he did not say how many arrests have been made and how many trials must ensue.

"There are hundreds of cases like this across the country," he said.

Honecker kept a private account that on any given day

had to contain at least 100 million marks (\$60.6 million), Reuter said.

Reuter said Honecker once spent 750,000 marks (\$454,000) on a pocket watch once owned by Soviet Union founder Vladimir Lenin.

According to Reuter, Honecker's private accounts were kept filled with Western currency by Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, East Germany's former chief foreign trader who has fled the country.

Schalck-Golodkowski has been accused of overseeing an illegal weapons depot to export arms and earn Western currency for East Germany's leaders.

Honecker also apparently had his generous side.

Occasionally, just before Christmas, the communist leader would "bless the people" by arranging for bananas, which were nearly non-existent in East Germany, to be imported and placed on market shelves, Reuter said.

Reuter said that Honecker, at such moments, tried to play "Santa Claus of the nation" — while communist officials were bilking the country.

The 77-year-old Honecker,

who was ousted Oct 18, was arrested last week and sent to prison. But he was released a day later after doctors determined he was too frail at the time to withstand detention.

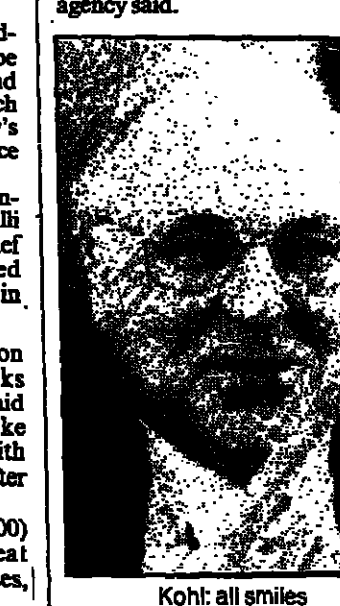
Honecker, who ruled for 18 years before being forced from power in October by a peaceful pro-democracy uprising, is recuperating from cancer surgery.

Authorities announced Wednesday that Honecker will be indicted for high treason and tried, probably after the March 18 elections, before the country's Supreme Court. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Many of his former lieutenants, such as ex-premier Willi Stoph, ousted economics chief Guenther Mittag, and fired security chief Erich Mielke, are in jail and will also stand trial.

Mielke once had a mansion built for a million marks (\$606,000) but never used it, said Reuter. Nonetheless, Mielke kept the house supplied with power and it was looked after daily, Reuter said.

A total of 221,000 (\$134,000) was paid annually to heat Stoph's private greenhouses, said Reuter.



Kohl: all smiles

Status of united Germany stirs debate: Bush meets Nato chief on membership issue

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (Agencies): President Bush conferred yesterday with Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner at his Camp David, Maryland, presidential retreat, at a time when East and West Germany appear to be moving toward reunification.

With the question at the forefront of whether a reunified German state would remain a member of the Nato alliance, Woerner — Bonn defence minister before becoming Nato chief — arrived at the presidential retreat outside Washington for an overnight stay.

A spokesman said the two began meeting around noon and Vice-President Dan Quayle, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger also took part in the discussions.

In Brussels, Nato officials and analysts said, a united Germany could stay in the alliance and still carve out a special military status for the present territory of East Germany.

The overriding concern for the Nato is that a unified Germany maintain its ties to the West. Woerner, says there is "no acceptable alternative

to Germany remaining anchored in the Atlantic alliance."

Jane Sharp, senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, commented: "You don't want a very powerful, unified German state unassociated in the middle of Europe."

"You must have Germany anchored and preferably to the West," she said. "You can't have Germany on the loose."

East German Premier Hans Modrow has suggested that a combined nation be neutral. West Ger-

many belongs to the 16-nation Nato and East Germany is one of the seven countries in the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

But Nato officials have dismissed the idea of such a large neutral state in Europe.

"A drifting, neutral Germany cannot be a solution, given the country's geostrategic position and its political, economic and military potential," Woerner said in a recent speech in West Germany.

"It would not even be the enlightened self-interest of the Soviets," he said. "The history of the last two centuries demonstrates this."

Media laud Amir's visit to Oman

Better understanding for both countries

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (Kuna): Two Kuwaiti daily newspaper today hailed the current visit of His Highness the Amir to the Sultanate of Oman emphasising that the visit is sure to be of positive results.

In an editorial an Arabic newspaper said the visit has come amid developments that are of most importance and that necessitate consultation and study of what is going on in the region and the world as a whole.

The newspaper said the visit to Oman is being held within the framework of visits paid by HH the Amir to sisterly states with the aim of consolidating understanding

and links between Kuwait and these countries.

The paper stressed that the situation in the Gulf region is certain to be given special attention by HH the Amir and Sultan Qaboos of Oman who, together with the other leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council, are seeking to maintain stability and security of this region.

Ventures

As for the Palestinian crisis, the paper said the two leaders would find the chance to warn against the Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories.

In conclusion the paper said "it is certain

that the important visit would result in a significant broadening of co-operation in all fields, particularly education and investments, in a way that is beneficial to the two countries and through joint ventures."

It added that the visit would undoubtedly open new and wide horizons for understanding on the path of welfare for both Kuwait and Oman and the countries of the region in general.

Another Arabic daily said the visit by HH the Amir to Oman is being held "within the framework of the movements of the Kuwaiti political leadership to foster co-operation within the Gulf house and to

reach a joint view toward current developments at the Arab level."

It expressed belief that the visit of HH to Muscat and his talks with Sultan Qaboos would constitute an additional step toward eliminating all obstacles facing co-operation and solidarity.

The paper also stressed that Kuwait and Oman enjoy relations of fraternity, brotherhood and co-operation, the same as among all people of the Gulf.

It added that these warm relations are sure to add more positive elements that are in interest of the Arab Gulf states and the Arab nation.

Co-op policies wrong: Kandiri

THE director of co-operation department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Mohammed Al Kandiri, referred to the existing situations of some co-operative societies to wrong administrative and financial policies carried out by their boards. He added that these boards follow wrong purchase policies, and also purchase bad quality commodities. The staff of these co-operatives are not qualified or trained which reflects on the performance of these co-operatives.

He pointed out that policies of rationalising spending did not affect services offered by the co-operatives as sales of the co-operatives have been continually increasing. The co-operatives compete with each other in offering better services to citizens and expatriates and also co-operate in exchanging some commodities and information and experiences.

He added that inspectors of the Ministry of Social Affairs have the right to inspect and control activities of the co-operatives according to the law and to seize violations committed there. The Union of Co-operative Societies has the right to submit suggestions to the ministry to dissolve the board of any co-operative society that violates the law and to appoint a new board instead, he said.

Unified prices

Kandiri pointed out that co-operative societies offer three kinds of groups of commodities: the first is subsidised items that are distributed through ration cards besides the items sold at co-ops like infants milk powder. The prices of these commodities are unified in all co-operatives, he said. The second group is the essential commodities that have their prices limited and unified by the Union of Co-operative Societies. The prices of these items are controlled by the union. He added that sometimes prices are increased or reduced but the union writes to every co-operative to change the price and according to the new determined price.

Sometimes a co-operative does not get the new instructions of prices of the unified items which results in a difference in prices. This difference in price however lasts only for a short period.

He added that a third group of commodities consists of free commodities like household utensils, cosmetics and stationery. He added that the union limits the amount of profit on these commodities. But there are some differences in prices of these items due to the difference in prices of purchasing, discount given for some co-operatives, getting commodities by certain co-ops free of charge that is deducted from purchasing cost, and the efficiency of the purchasing committee at each co-operative that determines ability of the committee to get suitable prices from importers. He added that Ministry of Social Affairs makes studies on prices of commodities at co-operatives. If studies show that there are differences in prices between one co-operative and another they are advised to change their prices, he said.

Kandiri pointed out that according to the law each co-operative society has the right to spend 20 per cent of annual profits on social, cultural and entertainment services offered by co-operative for people of the area.



Kuwait-Iraq talks

The Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water Abdullah Al Munayes received today the Iraqi Charge D'Affaires to Kuwait Fakhr Al Dulaimi. During the meeting the Iraqi envoy had conveyed a message to the Kuwaiti official from the Iraqi authorities concerned over the joint projects between Kuwait and Iraq.

Commerce Ministry criticised Price increases continue unabated

A NUMBER of citizens pointed out that prices are constantly rising and that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry seems to have lost direction in having the price structure monitored and controlled — particularly the Consumer Protection Department which has not reacted to stop this increase.

The above came about in an interview held with a number of citizens on services provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

They added that commercial cheating is evident in all commodities and demanded that the ministry take a strong stand towards eradicating this practice.

Hamad Abdullah stated that one of the main issues is to prevent the constant increase in prices which has no basis for justification. He indicated that some of the prices have increased after the last increase in salaries and he wondered whether the ministry has combated this increase or not. He added that the price of construction materials have increased noticeably coinciding with the distribution of plots and loans.

He stated that the Consumer Protection Department was originally established to protect consumers from the greed of merchants adding that no actions have been taken which support this role. He cited the problem of imitation commodities and called upon the ministry officials to take necessary measures in order to combat this problem. He queried if the Consumer Protection Department has enough authority to play its role fully.

On the other hand, Fahad Mohammed stated that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry procedures for granting licences is time consuming and bureaucratic. He called upon officials to find easier solutions to this problem in order to facilitate licences applications measures. He pointed out that one of the conditions demanded by applicants requires them to bring evidence showing a specific bank balance at one of the local banks. He said that such measures will make procedures more complicated for many applicants and force others to use other means in order to obtain their licences. He hoped that such measures will be cancelled to facilitate speedier grants of licences.

Ayadh Mohammed said that unfortunately obtaining commercial licences have become more complicated due to the two foldness of measures. He added that for example an application for a video shop licence should be approved by both the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Information. He suggested that such links should be dissolved particularly concerning the approval of the Ministry of Information which should only be responsible for video films censorship.

Fayez Al Enizi thanked officials at the Ministry of Commerce for their concern and constant support of some food stuff and hoped the ministry would keep implementing the ration card system which is considered essential to many citizens. He cited that

applying government support on some of the commodities will cause an increase in their prices at free markets.

Fares Al Eibani wondered whether the Ministry of Commerce has anything to do with supporting the establishment of local industries. He added that some of the world's poor countries were able to establish their own local industries and that Kuwait should utilise its resources in order to do the same. He pointed out that finding the right manpower for these industries is not a big issue if there was enough capital. He suggested that scrap area should be utilised in order to achieve higher feasibility.

Obaid Faleh pointed out that repair prices at automotive garages are very high adding that it is clear that the Ministry of Commerce have not done anything to combat this issue. He added that on many occasions he was cheated by garages which claimed that they have installed an original part but these parts were found to be imitations. He queried the role of the Consumer Protection Department in this problem.

Khalifa Husain said that displaying prices of all commodities at the local market is a very important measure. He added that this idea was implemented by the ministry in the wrong fashion and lacked laws and rulings. He pointed out that merchants have full freedom in printing whatever prices on their commodities adding that more restrictions and limits should be provided by the ministry in order to unify prices.

Meanwhile, the price of beef in Kuwait has increased from KDI.000 to KDI.500. Consumers anticipate that the price of beef will yet increase further if no measures are taken in order to protect them.

Butchers and shop owners on the other hand, pointed out that it is not their responsibility to set limits on beef prices adding that the whole problems should be the sole responsibility of contracting companies responsible for importing beef. They indicated that there is only one company in Kuwait which imports beef and therefore it has a monopoly on prices.

The Assistant Undersecretary for the Supply and Consumers Protection Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Abdullah Al Mulla stated that the price quotation on one kilogram of beef is indicated by the ministry at 800 fils. He called upon consumers to inform the ministry's Consumer Protection Department of any violation in prices.

He stressed that the ministry will take strong measures against butchers and shop owners who overcharge. He added that ministry inspectors conduct daily inspection tours to ensure that butcher shops comply with prices. He reiterated the co-operation between the ministry and citizens is important in order to combat this problem. He added that the ministry has not set any price limit for beef importers but rather applied price limit measures upon butchers and shop owners.

He pointed out that the department would under certain circumstances have to resort to devised measures to cope with the details of a certain matter brought to its attention which failed to find address under the existing law provisions and that the devised rules would be strictly derived from the existing legal provisions.

He said that the provisions of the law used by the department were derived from the Islamic sharia and that more rules would be inferred under Islamic law to attend to matter where there was no direct legal statute to deal with it.

He said that steps were consistently being taken to unify the legal systems in the GCC countries, and that studies were carried out to establish the best judicial and legal views upon which the proposed unified legal system could be based in the best interest of these countries.

Thais try to pacify Saudis

RIYADH, Feb 11, (AP): A senior Foreign Ministry delegation from Thailand started a series of meetings here today to assure the government that Bangkok was working around the clock to track the murderers of four Saudi diplomats.

First to receive the 12-man delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Prapas Limprabandhu was Foreign Minister Prince Sand Al Faisal.

Diplomatic sources said Limprabandhu stressed Thailand's eagerness to maintain the close friendly ties it has enjoyed with the kingdom in the past, and briefed the prince on the progress achieved so far in the investigations.

"We hope that the traditional friendship between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not been affected by the tragic events that took place," Limprabandhu told the official Saudi Press Agency upon landing in the Saudi capital.

"The Thai authorities are doing their utmost to expose the criminals and bring them to justice, and have deployed 300 policemen for that end," he said. "We are now working round the clock to arrest the criminals and have reached very important results."

He said he would inform the Saudi government about the investigations and the additional security measures that were taken to provide protection for Saudi diplomats in Bangkok.

The three Saudi diplomats were killed within minutes of each other on Bangkok streets Feb 1. The second secretary and consular head Abdullah Abdul-Rahman Al Basri, 32; consular officer Fahd Abdullah Al Bahli, 35 and teleoperator Ahmed Abdullah Al Saif, 26.

A year earlier, third secretary Abdullah Al Malikid from the consulate was also slain in Bangkok with the murder still unsolved.

Students continue Jordan trip

AMMAN, Feb 11, (Kuna): A delegation of the national student union of Kuwait University, headed by the deputy president of the union for scientific affairs Abdullah Al Sager, continued their five-day visit to Jordan today.

The delegation will be touring the governorate of Al Zarqa today to visit the Islamic Society College where they will listen to a lecture on the development and accomplishment of the college.

The student delegation will then investigate the welfare projects they participated in to see how they are running and how much has been accomplished.

On their way back to Amman, the delegation will visit Horreem refugee camp to closely view the situation of the refugees and the daily problems that face them.

Kuwait University Students Union sends a delegation at the beginning of each year to Jordan as a gesture of continued solidarity by Kuwaiti people with their Palestinian brothers and to distribute annual contributions and donations to needy families in Palestinian refugee camps.

The students union also used to finance charity projects and rehabilitation programmes to enable the refugees in getting a job and leading a dignified life along with members of their families.

250 patients wait for kidney donors

No restrictions in Islam, says theologian

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (Kuna): A prominent Kuwaiti theologian has indicated that there were no restrictions in Islam on donation of human organs for medical transplant operations.

Dr Khalid Al Mathkour told a seminar here last night that a person can donate his organs to be implemented into body of another needy patient before death, provided that he made no harm to himself.

He said one can make the offer personally during life-time or according to a will before death.

The consent of relatives on the donation of the organs of the deceased is a must, Dr Mathkour stated, saying that in case of non-existence of relatives or guardians, the donated parts can only

be transplanted on approval by concerned authorities such as the Minister of Public Health.

Speaking in a seminar, organised here last night by the Kuwait Society for Organs Transplant, head of neurology section at Ibn Sina Hospital Dr Ra'ad Shaker disclosed that there were about 250 patients in Kuwait who now need kidney transplant and there was an average of 50 cases who require such operation annually.

He pointed out that there were also about 160 deaths in the country every year that could be exploited to get kidneys for ailing patients "if people were enlightened on the viability of organs' donation."

Dr Ra'ad said relatives of any dying person must be alerted on

the probability of the death well ahead to allow them time to make up their minds on the possibility of donating his organs.

The legal counsellor at the Public Health Ministry Yahia Abu Al Fetouh reviewed the regulations governing organs transplant operations in Kuwait.

He said the law issued in this connection in the year 1987 has legalised transferring organs from a person or a corpse to be implanted in another's body as long as the operation is believed contributing to recipient's rescue.

He stressed the law has organised the process of organs donation in accordance to principles of the Islamic sharia and other public laws observed in Kuwait.

Foreign investments Diversification a necessity: Mutairi

THE director general of the Kuwait Investment Establishment, Hilal Mishari Al Mutairi has said that the foreign investments of Gulf governments have remarkably receded lately, with the exception of Kuwait's foreign investments.

He said that despite the drop in oil returns in the eighties, Kuwait was able to diversify and increase its foreign investments, estimated at \$85 billion. However, he commented that Arab investment expertise is marginal, compared with that of the Europeans or Japanese.

He said that the availability of money made investment opportunities better as this would open up the chances to recruit the best investment specialists and employ them efficiently in the best interest of these investments.

He said that the reason behind the massive losses sustained by the Arab investors during the downfall of the international exchange markets in October 1987 was not lack of experience but due to the employment of misplaced investment policies.

He said that these companies had the privilege of remaining safely protected by laws and legislations regulating their foreign investment operations, adding that the Zionist influence in the Western world had a great deal to do with the anti-Arab investment onslaught there. A case in point is what happened to Kuwait when she bought the majority of the shares of a British company and the subsequent pressure by the British government to compel Kuwait into selling part of its share in the company despite the legality of the whole transaction.

Diversification. Mutairi said that this exceptional incident could never foil any successful investment operation, adding that it is a grave mistake to consider foreign investments as a mere sideline. He stressed that Kuwait must diversify its foreign investments outside the oil field whereby to reduce and distribute the potential investment chances, excluding the investments of Kuwait in the Kuwait International Oil Company Q8.

He said that the fast changes occurring in the East European countries raised fears about the potential future of investment opportunities in the areas and thwarted attempts at approximate forecasting of what could possibly happen next. Therefore, it is advisable to wait and see whether East European markets would remain a promising investment field.

Mutairi expressed high optimism of the potential investment success in the Far Eastern countries, particularly in India, adding that Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand were economically flourishing and that these countries provided a highly promising investment climate.

Obstacles. He pointed out that the main obstacle facing foreign investments in India is the existing bureaucracy and administrative redtape.

He reviewed the history of investments in the Arab world, saying that they were mainly unsuccessful attempts, and consequently would not advise investors to increase their investments in this part of the world.

He lamented the existing bureaucratic redtape and the absence of laws and legislations to outline the field of foreign investment as the reasons behind the failure of many investment enterprises, including the intervention by some Arab governments to hinder investment operations in their countries.

He stressed that the lack of investors opportunities would keep them aloof from any attempt to try investing their money in projects within the Arab world and the same applied to foreign investors. Therefore, it was an urgent demand that Arab officials increased the incentives and attract foreign investments on the strong conviction that their effort was part and parcel of the national development process.



Paet training courses

The director of the Training, Planning and Co-ordination Department at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Mansour Al Mishal has opened two new training courses organised by the training sector at the authority, one in Report Writing for Public Health Ministry staff and the other on questionnaires and related issues.

He urged participants to make the best of these courses, pointing out that close interaction with their instructors was essential to achieve this goal.

He said that questionnaires would be circulated among them to invite their comments on the administrative, technical aspects of the course to highlight the positive aspects of the courses and eliminate the negativities on future courses.

The courses are being held at the authority's main premises in Dasman Complex, Sharq, during working hours.

Revolutionary housing plan being studied by authority

THE assistant secretary general of the Higher Housing Council and director of public relations at the National Housing Authority (NHA) Ahmad Al Dighas has said that the NHA is studying important studies on a new housing system that will be a revolution in housing.

The authority has termed the new system "the black concrete structure" which is "high-rise building" consisting of several stories of houses with several styles offered to citizens. The new system will fit their houses in co-operation with NHA. In this case, citizens can make rooms and utilities inside the structure as they desire and save public money and their own which is usually spent on changing the fronts of the government houses. He added that the new system will be one of the substitutes offered by the state for citizens in housing service.

The new system will be offered in the next five-year plan, he said. Al Dighas pointed out that the NHA is making a field study in co-operation with Kiar to know the desires of citizens who deserve government houses.

The study aims at getting a comprehensive picture for these desires in order to develop recommendations and regulations on designs of houses in future. He also added that the NHA will open the central public garden at Qurain housing project during the celebrations of the National Day, the foundation stone being laid by HH the Amir on 30/3/1986.

It will also contain several entertainment services for children the green squares and trees. The garden is one of three central gardens that will be opened in the Qurain housing project.

Meanwhile, the assistant director general of Kuwait Financial House for real estates sector Sulaiman Al Brikan stated that KFH reached an agreement on co-operation between NHA and the private sector. He added that the agreement will be signed by KFH and authority after finalising some official procedures.

KFH had and still actively participates in the housing service by offering land, allotments and houses for citizens against long term loans that reach ten years.

He added that KFH is ready to meet demand of any citizen who wants to buy a private house. The loan he gets from Saving & Credit Bank (KDS4,000) will be the downpayment of the house. The remaining amount can be installed for ten years, he said.

The National Housing Authority Area II chief engineer Adel Al Turki has said that the contractors working on current NHA projects are earnestly bent on completing their works on time.

He told a local daily that the authority had taken massive measures to facilitate financial transactions and deals of these contractors pointing out that regular monthly meetings were held to review the contractors' comments and views as to the financial administrative and professional matters.

He said that a few contractors were facing executive problems, which arose from the huge sizes of the projects assigned to them which required resourcefulness to manage and co-ordinate their different works, including the timely import of raw material.

He said that the NHA accorded priority to locally produced materials which met the specifications stated in the contract, adding that the second priority was given to materials produced in the Gulf, while the international products took the third priority.

Comprehensive legal encyclopaedia to cover issues

THE director of the Legal Advice and Legislation Department Abdul Rasool Abdul Radda has said that the department is progressively developing its operation techniques.

He told a local daily that the department is co-operating with the National Council and Microfilm Centre at the Planning Ministry to upgrade the performance of microfilm centre and complete the modernisation of its divisions. This will enhance the planned set up of a

comprehensive legal encyclopaedia to cover all different legal aspects.

He said that the department is anxiously awaiting the issue of a new law to restructure its existing system which needed reconsideration in certain areas.

He said the department looked into matters of dispute arising between government agencies under article No.4 of its practice code, which entitled the department to examine inter-governmental disputes and

report the findings to the Council of Ministers.

He pointed out that the department would under certain circumstances have to resort to devised measures to cope with the details of a certain matter brought to its attention which failed to find address under the existing law provisions and that the devised rules would be strictly derived from the existing legal provisions.

He said that the provisions of the law used by the department were derived from

the Islamic sharia and that more rules would be inferred under Islamic law to attend to matter where there was no direct legal statute to deal with it.

He said that steps were consistently being taken to unify the legal systems in the GCC countries, and that studies were carried out to establish the best judicial and legal views upon which the proposed unified legal system could be based in the best interest of these countries.

Combat satellite cultural invasion: Jaber

New developed formula requested

MANAMA, Feb 11, (Kuna): Kuwait Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad was quoted here yesterday as urging Arab Information policymakers to launch plans for combating "cultural invasion coming through satellites."

In an interview with Bahraini daily "Al Adwa," the minister said that co-ordination is also needed among the Gulf states to face attempts by "biased foreign media seeking to disintegrate" the region's cohesiveness.

Explaining further, Sheikh Jaber said fast international changes presently witnessed in light of a détente policy between the two superpowers make it incumbent on Arab media institutions to unify efforts to reach a "new developed formula."

This is a "joint responsibility," to be shouldered by leading information and communication experts in order to bring forth specific proposals for implementation at the national level, he said.

The minister noted that continued consultations in information fields among the

states of the Gulf Co-operation Council have helped forestall dangers plotted by pro-Israeli foreign media.

Arabs, he said, needed to be protected from programmes aimed at "deforming their culture, religion and values."

Satellite dishes and receiving equipment are banned in most Gulf states.



Premier receives Kelly

HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at 1030 yesterday morning at his diwan in Bayan Palace the US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and South Asia Affairs John Kelly and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to Kuwait. The audience was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Al Shneen, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah and the US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Howell. Kelly arrived here Friday on a several day visit to Kuwait within the context of his current tour in the region.

Legal Clinic



SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I AM a carpenter and was working with a contractor who was building an overbridge. While working, a shutter fell on me and I fell down from a height of 10 metres. As a result, I was severely injured and suffered fractures in one arm and four ribs were cracked. I was hospitalised for four months. The hospital authorities recommended 20 per cent disability. When the company submitted the certificate to the insurance company, they sent me to the police for a report. The police report says that the accident was due to my fault. The insurance company has told me that I am not entitled to any compensation according to the police report.

Abul Kashem THE Kuwaiti private sector labour law, No. 38/1964, article 64 stipulates: "The injured labourer shall receive his wage in full during the period of treatment determined by the physician. If such a period exceeds six months, half wage shall be paid to him until he has recovered, proven to be disabled or died." Article 65 of the same law states: "If a labourer sustains an injury by the reasons of and in the course of work, he shall have the right to be compensated for the injury in conformity with the schedule issued under the decision of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour in application of this article; provided that he shall not be compensated if the relevant investigations prove:

a) The labourer has injured himself on purpose; (b) if the injury has occurred as a result of gross misconduct, intentionally made by the labourer; provided that it does not result in the death of the labourer or a permanent disability exceeding 25 per cent of the entire disability. It is important to determine the cause of accident and find out if it was due to negligence or committed on purpose. Also, I don't know the contents of the criminal judgement in the case. In most cases, a labourer has the right to claim against the company. If you want a clear answer, send a copy of the criminal judgement. In a majority of cases, a court case can be filed to claim compensation. And the court examines the case thoroughly before passing judgement.

THANK you for replying to my query in the Arab Times edition of Jan 29. I have enclosed copies of documents. Please tell me why my residence transfer application was rejected. My residence expires next month. Where do I have to pay the penalty, in case my residence expires?

Please tell me what is "A'da mu' man'a"; my new sponsor is trying to get me one. My company gave the release to nine people. But all their applications were rejected. Mohd. Khaled Islam I've gone through the documents you've sent. I don't know why your application was rejected. The reason for rejection has not been mentioned in the documents. Article 16 of the labour rules implemented in March 1989 clearly say that a transfer of residence can be done if a labourer has completed at least three years service. I don't know why the application was returned.

"Ada mu' man'a" is the no objection certificate, obtained for a new visa. If your new sponsor gets you the NOC, you can leave the country and re-enter. If your residence expires, you must pay the penalty to the immigration authorities.

WE appreciate the advice to our previous query. The victim died in the company's vehicle. He was attached to an oil company as a semi-skilled labourer; on the day of the accident, he was posted to a project in Wafra. We have the police report, post mortem report and other documents. The dead body was sent back to Sri Lanka through the embassy. Please tell us if the company which he was working for can be held responsible for the life of the person, taking into consideration the fact that he was hired by another company? We need a lawyer to follow-up the case.

YOU can file a case against both companies to claim compensation. Who does the police report blame? There must be a criminal judgement against the man at fault; if there is you can file a case against the person and his insurer. If you want to visit him and see his condition, I'll be able to meet you, provided you make an appointment. You can call the Arab Times, Tel: 481-3566 ext. 285 between 6 and 7 pm and ask them for further information by introducing yourself, giving reference of the case. After meeting you, I'll be able to give you appropriate advice.

I'VE been working for a company for the last eight years. Due to lack of work in the company, my employer told me to work for a private contractor, whose residence permit has been stamped by our company. This contractor has not paid me for the last four months. Whenever we ask for the salary, the contractor says he doesn't have the money. We informed the manager of our company and he has told us not to see him. This

contractor never makes our time cards. I want to complain to the ministry of social affairs and labour. Will I face any problems: for example, proof that I was told by our company manager to work for the contractor. The only proof I have are my colleagues.

The company manager and the contractor are friends. Can they cancel my residence permit? What are my benefits if they sack me? I've been working for the contractor for the past one year with the verbal permission of our company manager. I am an ordinary labourer. Sir, please advise me, giving exact details of the consequences.

F. Barboza IT is important to prove that you were asked to work for the private contractor. If you have witnesses, you'll be able to prove that.

You can file a case against both employers — the one you work for, and the one who told you to work, and base the case on the testimony of your colleagues. You have the right to get full benefits, because the breach of the contract was started by the employer by not paying your salary. You'll be entitled to receive all the benefits and salary, and vacation leave. The company will try to fight you. Don't worry about the residence, because you can stay in the country until the case has been settled. Maybe, they have the right to cancel your residence. But you can get permission to stay in Kuwait with the assistance of the immigration authority, who can extend the residence on the basis of legal papers obtained from the court.

FM a European Muslim lady, married to a Kuwaiti and the mother of three Kuwaiti children. I would like to know what is the legal possibility of staying in Kuwait with my children if my husband does not want to renew my residence permit, without divorcing me, or if I can get a divorce from court. Could I stay in Kuwait? My children are under the age of seven. Could the government help me? How? Where can I ask for help?

Anonymous YOU can get custody of the children. If your husband refuses to renew the residence permit, in most cases, a foreign mother can stay in the country on the sponsorship of her children if she is a widow or a divorcee. You can seek assistance at the department of immigration; officials there can tell you the exact nature of procedures that you should follow.

Cabinet session

State writes off debts to SCB

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (Kuna): Kuwait today renewed its support to the Lebanese people in their strive to extricate the country from its present dilemma and praised the positive steps exerted by the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee to extend control of the legitimate authority over the entire Lebanese territory and reinstate peace and tranquility there.

The stance was made following a regular session of the Kuwaiti government held today under Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

Planning Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi told newsmen following the Cabinet meeting that Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad has apprised the session of the gist of talks held recently by the Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

The Algerian official's talks, Awadi quoted Sheikh Sabah as telling the Council of Ministers, had centred on the state of existing relations between fraternal Algeria and Kuwait and means to develop them besides conditions passed by the Arab nation and other matters of mutual interest.

The government spokesman added that the Cabinet received a report on the visit paid to Jeddah last week by Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Khaled Al Jassar to represent HH the Amir, in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), at the 20th anniversary celebrations of founding the OIC.

Jassar has delivered the address of HH the Amir on the occasion which dwelt on major Islamic causes, topped by the Palestinian question, means to promote collective Muslim work and ways to realise goals and aspirations of the Muslim nation.

Dr Awadi said the cabinet has followed with much concern and regret the painful current events in eastern Beirut where many innocent lives had been lost. "The cabinet," its spokesman said, "appeals to all rival factions to resort to reason, understanding and fraternal dialogue in order to stop the shedding of blood and destruction which is wreaking havoc in the sisterly state."

The cabinet then moved to discuss recommendations made by the education, social and health committee in respect to reformation of the education system in such a manner as to upgrade the standard of education services offered, and to contribute effectively and substantially to moulding of the active Kuwaiti individual, Awadi said, adding that the session had approved the recommendations.

The Council of Ministers also decided to write off debts to the Savings and Credit Bank from a number of families who had lost their supporters in appreciation of their conditions and to facilitate their living conditions, according to the official.

He indicated that the session further reviewed a memorandum suggesting creation of a special body to co-ordinate efforts and services made by various departments concerned with care for the handicapped with the view of rehabilitating them as far as their physical and actual facilities can permit in order to lead normal life and contribute to the building of their society and country.

Stranded cars in US

By Khaled Ahmad

IT is learnt that hundreds of US-made used cars bought by Kuwaiti merchants are now stranded in several US ports and that ships could not carry them after the decision issued last Tuesday in Kuwait by the minister of commerce and industry banning the import of used cars older than two years excluding the manufacture year.

Local traders have been consulting with concerned officials at the ministry to find a solution to redressing this issue. These local traders demanded a stay period of two years before implementing the decision which was published yesterday in the official gazette. The traders said that they have already bought cars in the US and are waiting to be shipped to Kuwait.

Out of focus festival

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

THE French Film Festival that focuses on movies inspired by the French Revolution 200 years ago opened Saturday at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce auditorium with *Chouans* directed by Philippe de Broca.

But it was an unpropitious start plagued by technical problems that distorted both the picture and the sound. Neither the Kuwait Cine Club, who organised the event, nor the Chamber of Commerce that hosted it, apparently had the right equipment to project a cinema-scope movie. The result was what appeared to be an out of focus picture with parts of some scenes running off the screen on to the adjacent ceiling and curtains.

To make things worse the sound was not clear either, and what could have been an enjoyable night out turned into an irritation. The 10-day festival continued yesterday, and the organisers explained that *Chouans* was the only cinema-scope production, and promised a clear picture and sound. The question is whether the near capacity crowd that turned up Saturday night would return to the Chamber of Commerce auditorium for the rest of the programme. If they don't they might miss some exceptional work by cinematographers of international fame.

Although apparently limited to the theme of the French Revolution the movies in fact span a wide range of topics: love, politics and religion, in stories acted out by all-time stars such as Jeanne Moreau, Orson Welles, Jean-Paul Belmondo and younger stars Gerard Depardieu and Sophie Marceau. While instructive, the movies are also entertaining, with humour, romance and revolutionary fervour etched into stories that transcend the period they portray.

Failure Foreign film festivals organised jointly by embassies, in this case the French, and the Kuwait Cine Club are a welcome event on a rather sterile cultural and entertainment scene in Kuwait. One cannot help feeling that the technical failure on Saturday, could have easily been avoided since the French embassy delivered the movies a month before the opening night. Nor was this the first time that a film projection was marred by poor equipment and planning. At least two other events, the recent Japanese film festival and another one earlier on showing Indian-made non-commercial movies, suffered from the same ailment.

So why then did it happen again. Probably due to neglect and indifference. Why get the right type of projector when we show so few cinema-scope productions anyway, was the likely reasoning of whoever was in charge. That's fine. Don't get the projector but don't show us cinema-scope films either. For what could possibly be the purpose of a movie with muffled sound and blurred picture.

GCC committee

RIYADH, Feb 11, (Kuna): A technical committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) entrusted with the unification of regulations and rules of preventive supervision for civil defence in the GCC member states will hold a meeting here tomorrow.

Polarisation of projects completed: Hussein

PARIS, 1Feb 11, (Kuna): The advisor at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein said yesterday that inter-governmental committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development has discussed the achievements realised since the start of the decade in 1988.

In a statement to Kuna, Hussein said that the committee which groups officials from 26 countries has completed polarisation of projects which had been agreed on, topped by the Silk Road Project and the Alexandria Library.

Hussein, who is a committee member, said several members have spoken since the start of the second session on February 5 on new topics, particularly the political changes in Eastern Europe and their reflections on cultural relations among world countries.

Hussein said the Kuwait representative to the committee has spoken about what is called the Kuwait Declaration which was issued at the meeting of the International Fund for Cultural Development 18 months ago, and which called for support to the goals of the decade, particularly its major projects such as Alexandria Library.

Help available for mentally handicapped: headmistress

THE HEADMISTRESS of Qabeleen School for disabled girls, Hessa Ibrahim Al Rayes said that the school was established in 1985 at the previous Barda Kindergarten location. She added the school included boys and girls previously, but was changed to an exclusive girls school last year. The school has a total of 82 girl students with ages ranging between 4-18 years.

Hessa explained that Kuwait has more than 600 mentally disabled children living in basements away from society. Most families believe that such cases are a disgrace to family honour. She pointed out that if parents realised the reality of the issue they would have immediately registered their disabled children at the school in order to get around their mental disabilities and to develop their mental levels.

The school undersecretary, Fawziya Khaled said that all children registered at the school are transferred by the Genetic Medicine Centre at the Maternity Hospital. Parents registering their children at the school show full understanding towards their children's problems. The school was established to train students in many skills which are essential for their day-to-day needs.

Regarding the cases accepted by the school and treatment, the headmistress added that the school accepts all mental disability and Mongolian cases which have less than 50 per cent IQ levels. She indicated that the school tries to develop students' physical, mental, social, psychological and health abilities. She pointed out that the law has indicated that only seven students are permitted per classroom but, the school has classrooms with ten students each.

Hessa stated that specialised social workers guide and direct parents in dealing with their daughters in a number of situations. Students who have already reached the teenage period are treated on special basis which allows for more family co-operation.

She said that special curricula is utilised for mentally disabled students in accordance with their mental age levels. She said that students at the school have IQ ranging between 30 to 50. Curricula place more emphasis on qualifying this group of students towards self-dependency and also to give them enough knowledge on the surrounding environment and how to deal with it.

The Rafedeen School for Girls has a total of 20 female teachers in addition to the headmistress, the undersecretary, a social worker and a psychological specialist. She added that the parents council at the school was formed originally to serve the interests of students.

On the other hand, Dr Kamal Ibrahim Mursi, a teaching staff member at the Educational Psychology Department at the Education College in the University of Kuwait stated that obviously, both parents would be shocked to discover that their baby is mentally disabled. He said that it is important therefore, for the doctor to wait before informing the parents. He added that it is not necessary for parents to be informed of the fact immediately but, it is better that a doctor should take enough time to introduce this fact gradually to the parents.

With respect to parents relationship with this sensitive problem, Mursi stated sometimes it is hard for parents to take care of their child for any reason like family problems, low income levels and the big size of the family. In these cases, parents should follow the following methods in taking care of their child, namely to register the child at one of the nurseries, register the child in a private institute for special education after school age, giving up the child to a replacement family who will require fees either paid by the parents or by the government and last to register the child at one of the mentally disabled training school where he/she will interact with a small group of similar children.

Call to preserve historical heritage

KUWAIT, Feb 11, (Kuna): A symposium on preserving historical buildings has called for promoting awareness among decision-makers on the importance of heritage and preserving landmarks.

The symposium, organised by Kuwait Municipality, also emphasised the significance of encouraging the private sector to take part in the process of

preserving national landmarks, by offering it all possible facility, be that in construction laws or exempt from fees.

Walid Al Jassem, an engineer who took part at the symposium, said that the municipality had passed a law in 1988, requesting all government institutions to co-operate with the municipality in protecting and preserving landmarks.

Jassem added that the urban design division at the municipality has conducted a detailed study in the past on the status of historical landmarks in the country to help spread public awareness on their rarity and beauty.

He noted that a work team of the division conducted a field survey for eight consecutive months, during which it identified 122 landmarks in Kuwait

City. All 122 buildings will be included in the 1st volume of a municipality study on privately-owned landmarks and buildings belonging to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

The study also included buildings belonging to the ministries of Finance, Information, Education, Health and Electricity and water, in addition to the state properties department.

IICCR slams Jewish emigration

MAKKAH, Feb 11, (Kuna): The International Islamic Council for Call and Relief has expressed its deep concern and anxiety over the emigration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

This will encourage civil plans of Zionism against human rights, said a statement issued by the council here last night.

On Soviet support to Palestinian rights, the council which comprises representatives of Islamic organisations said: "We have been following with great sorrow the sudden retreat of Soviet Union before the imperialist and Zionist plan to

undermine the image of the Soviet Union and its relations with its friends.

"Such a retreat goes against the principles of Soviet policy and human rights.

"We view this as a surrender to Zionist political blackmail and this flood of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine will be a decisive blow to Arab-Soviet relations," the statement said.

The council sent a cable on the issue to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, it said.

On behalf of Islamic organisations and societies, it said the council would like to express its

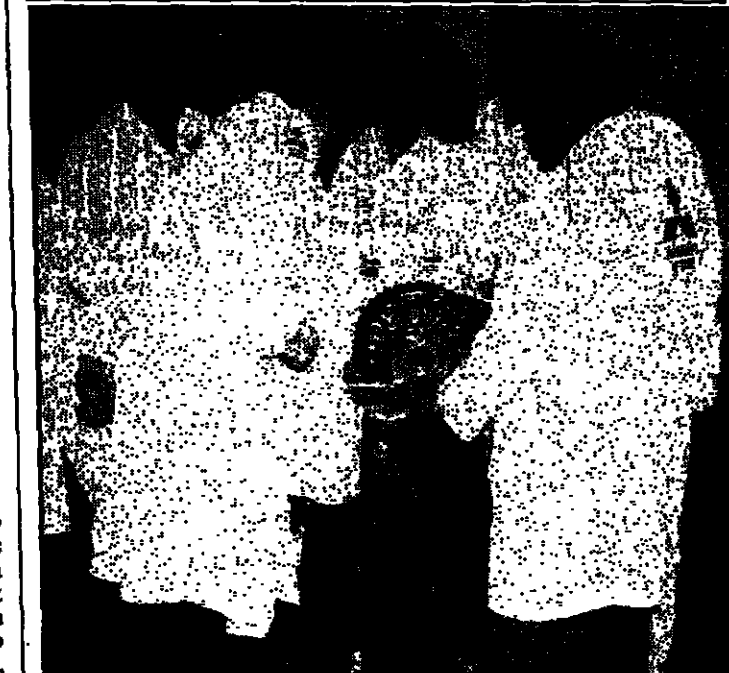
deep anxiety over the decision of the Soviet government to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, furthering the Zionist ideology.

The Zionist occupiers of Palestine have endangered the security of Arab neighbours.

"We are hopeful that the Soviet Union will not allow the Arab territories to be invaded.

"Such acts cause great harm to relations between the Soviet Union and the Muslim world. It will also jeopardise international peace and stability.

"We are hopeful that you will intervene to reverse this unfair decision," the cable concluded.



Mitsubishi training seminar

Mr. E. Kojima of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation was in Kuwait from 20th to 24th of January 1990 in order to instruct the service technicians of Maseelah Trading Company in the detailed engineering principles of all new range of trucks and buses in the Kuwait market and other important changes in the truck and bus range built by Mitsubishi Motors Corporation for the model year 1990. Mitsubishi Motors Corporation in conjunction with Maseelah Trading Company promoted the service training once more demonstrating the importance that both companies pay to after sales service.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I CLAIM not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me — Abraham Lincoln, former US president (1809-1865).

Revolution ignites passion

Moldavia calls for secession

KISHINEV, USSR, (AP): Romania's revolution has awakened a passion for reunification in neighbouring Soviet Moldavia that even the republic's populist leader may find difficult to control.

If Moldavia seceded and joined Romania, for a growing number of native Moldavians it would be going home — Moldavia was Romanian until Stalin seized it 50 years ago.

"There's nothing unnatural in our people's desire to reunify," said Leonida Lari, a poet who represents Moldavia in the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow. "We are as Romanian as those living across the border."

Leaders on both sides of the Prut river border, mindful of the dangers for Romania as it rebuilds and the Soviet Union as it lurches from one ethnic crisis to another, say the future relationship between Romania and the territory Josef Stalin attached to his empire in 1940 need not be decided now.

But the first calls of "unire" (unity) echoed through this Moldavian capital at the start of the Romanian revolt against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in December.

Moldavians speak a nearly identical language as Romanians and admire the same cultural heroes.

But during their history, they often have been separated. Before the breakup of Czarist Russia in 1917, Moldavia was the Russian province of Bessarabia. Many Russians, Ukrainians and Jews have lived in Moldavia for generations.

Inspired by the Romanian revolution, thousands of Moldavians took to the streets in a show of support for the anti-Ceausescu forces. Some young people offered to cross the border to join the battle. The republic's government, as well as the Moldavian People's Liberation Front Movement, sent medicine and food.

The People's Front already had been pressing demands on Moscow for greater autonomy. It won a battle to establish Moldavian as the official language of the republic and returned to the Latin alphabet used by Romanians, dropping the Cyrillic letters imposed under Stalin.

The People's Front has drawn thousands into the streets of Kishinev for rallies, and even its opponents acknowledge it is likely to sweep local elections cautiously, mindful of dangers for themselves as well as for President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms.

"Today we are not putting the issue of reunification among the urgent tasks," said Nicolae Kostin, the 53-year-old chairman of the group's executive committee. "We will not attempt any steps in this direction without analysing carefully how that may backfire against Gorbachev and his policy of perestroika."

Ms Lari said in an interview that she worries a determined push for reunification with Romania could lead to military intervention or even a coup against Gorbachev.

For now, People's Front leaders say they would be satisfied with what they call a "Brandenburg variant," which envisions broader contacts across the border without full reunification. Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, after which the variant is named, became a symbol of the division between East and West Germany and was recently reopened to traffic and travellers.

But that course may not satisfy Moldavians who are the most intense about reunification and are disgruntled with the Soviet system.

A 19-year-old student who identified herself only as Tanya said reunification with Romania now offers Moldavians a chance to escape Communism.

Secession

"We are sick and tired with the way we have to live only because some half-literate leader 'can't let down the ideals of socialism' — and we all have to suffer for it. Secession is the only chance for us to live properly and enjoy life while it is not too late, while we are still young."

"We have been lied to for 72 years," said Valentin Barda, a 40-year-old printer. "Now it's time we went our separate ways. We will go to any length to achieve reunification."

The People's Front president, Ion Hadirica, said that after the Romanian revolution, some members of his organisation broke away and formed the Stephan Chel Mare Society. Named for Stephan the great, the 15th century Romanian King whose statue stands in a Kishinev park, it calls for the question of reunification to be decided immediately.

And there are other indications the People's Front has little control over more radical elements pressing for reunification.

In November, demonstrators climbed on Soviet tanks to halt the traditional Revolution Day military parade and attacked the Interior Ministry headquarters with firebombs, stones and iron rods.

Many of them refused to listen to People's Front leaders who appealed for calm.

Protesters calling for Russians to leave the republic of 4.2 million people and chanting "long live greater Romania" now share the streets with reinforced police patrols.

Vladimir Solonari, an ethnic Ukrainian leader of the Unity Movement formed to protect the rights of the 1 million Russians, Ukrainians and other minorities in Moldavia, said he fears the People's Front might be too disorganised to control the situation.

The new Moldavian Communist Party chief, Pyotr Luchinsky, told the newspaper Komunisty that the ethnic tension is his biggest worry. Demands for reunification were primarily an emotional reaction to the Romanian revolution, he said.

He added that the "absolute majority of residents of the republic are not for union with Romania but for more intensive contacts with our neighbour."

Mikhail S. Platon, a deputy premier of Moldavia, said, "We would like to raise the issue in such a way that people could travel (to Romania) by car or by bus, to go to the theatre, to meet each other freely."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1554 — Lady Jane Grey is executed for treason in England.

1577 — Don John of Austria, new governor of the Netherlands, issues edict to settle civil war.

1610 — France's King Henry IV signs alliance with German Protestant Union.

1689 — Declaration of rights in England, in which William and Mary are proclaimed king and queen for life.

1736 — Nadir Shah becomes king of Persia.

1885 — German East Africa Company is chartered.

1895 — Japanese forces score impressive victory at Wei-Hai-Wei in China.

1899 — Germany Buys Pacific islands of Marinas, Caroline and Pelew from Spain.

1912 — Manchukuo dynasty abdicates in China and provincial republic is established.

1934 — Workers stage general strike in France.

1953 — Britain and Egypt reach agreement on Sudan.

1956 — Soviet Union warns that dispatch of US or British troops to Middle East will violate United Nations charter.

1970 — Israeli air raid on scrap metal plant in Egypt kills 70 civilians.

1974 — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Soviet Nobel winner, is arrested at his Moscow apartment.

1986 — Andrija Artukovic, 86, is extradited from United States to Yugoslavia to stand trial in killing of more than 700,000 people during Nazi rule in World War II.

1988 — Israeli soldiers kill two people and wound at least three others when they open fire on demonstrators in West Bank city of Nabulus.



The parliamentarians from left to right: Inger Lise Gjør, president of Norway's First Chamber; Helene Mignon, French Parliament; German MP Monika Ganselorth; Dutch MP Karla Peijs; Huberte Hanquet, Belgian Senate; and Helen Beim, Denmark. (WNL)

Life in territories could turn explosive

Palestinians live in agony

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (WNL): In Gaza, the water tastes salty, and most of the land is parched. Yet, about one third of the 362 square kilometres of the Gaza Strip is lush and green. The green areas are surrounded by barbed wire and electronic security devices: that's where 18 Jewish settlements are home to a total of 2,200 people. Packed into the rest of the space in squalid refugee camps that have one of the highest population densities in the world are an estimated 800,000 Palestinians.

The deep wells bored by the Israeli settlers have caused the shallower Palestinian wells to dry up and have caused increasing salination. According to a recent United Nations study titled "The Palestinian Economy Under the Israeli Occupation," out of total annual supplies of 800 million cubic metres of water, Palestinians in the occupied territories (Gaza Strip plus the West Bank) are allowed to use only 110 million cubic metres, despite the rapid growth of the population. "Palestinians are not permitted to use their water resources for the development of their economy," the study notes, and increasing salination has impaired the quality of citrus fruits which were one of the main sources of livelihood.

Earning a living in Gaza is not easy. There is no industry to speak of and that is why close to 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel. Or rather, worked. Many of these people, who constitute a major source of cheap labour for Israel, have been on strike for the best part of two years, since the intifada or Palestinian uprising began. Others, who don't want or can't afford to observe the strike orders, are not necessarily free to work any way. A few months ago, the Israeli authorities introduced a controversial system to control Gazans: Anyone who wants to leave the area must have a magnetic I.D. card. It looks like a credit card with a holder's picture on it and enables the authorities to monitor an individual's movements. It is similar to the system used for prisoners in "half-way houses" in some Western countries.

Obtaining the new card is difficult, partly because the individual must not feature on any of the authorities' "black lists." With close to 40,000 arrests recorded since the beginning of the uprising, most Palestinian men find it difficult to keep off the dreaded lists — sometimes being stopped for an I.D. check is enough to be listed as a security threat.

A delegation of Western European parliamentarians who recently toured Gaza and the West Bank were shocked to see that their Palestinian driver, although a UN employee, was required to show his magnetic card. The six-member delegation comprising women parliamentarians from France, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Germany and Holland, was on a fact-finding, seven-day mission organised by the Brussels-based Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation.

Delegation

Most were visiting the area for the first time. After two nights in Gaza, the delegation toured the West Bank, visiting villages and refugee camps. They also met Palestinian as well as Israeli leaders.

One purpose of the visit was to consider what role Western Europe could play to help find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Nava Arad, a member of the Israeli Parliament (Knesset) in the Labour Party told the delegation that it was "no use for Europe to keep on putting pressure on the Israeli govern-

ment." At the same time, she acknowledged that "the right wing, the Likud Party, does not want negotiations, they won't give an inch." Although there are some signs of change within the Likud, she added, "especially the younger people around (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir," she is sceptical that the hard-line Israeli PM will ever change his position.

According to Arad, the Labour Party which is the junior partner in the current government coalition, holds no real sway in the country's foreign policy. "For some of us, the only option if the peace process does not move forward will be to leave the government," she said. She identified herself as part of a group of 17 out of the 39 Labour Knesset members who are pushing for more dialogue with Palestinians.

Willing to discuss politics with her European counterparts, Arad refused to comment on the issue of human rights abuses by Israeli forces, detentions without trial, military brutality and the growing problem of appalling living conditions in the Palestinian refugee camps.

The delegation had plenty of opportunity to assess these conditions. Inger Lise Gjør, president of Norway's First Chamber and a member of the Labour Party, commented: "What I have seen is too bad: from a human point of view it cannot be defended. People in Gaza and the West Bank live in conditions that are not bearable for me. I understand the Israeli problem, but I think they are overdoing it." Added the 51-year-old politician who has been in parliament since 1977: "I am very pessimistic. I see no real wish to find a solution on the Israeli side. I don't know how the Israelis think they have time when there is so much going wrong."

Settlements

One of the problems brought to the attention of the delegation as it toured the occupied territories was the increasing number of Israeli settlements built there. Since occupying troops arrived in 1967, 52 per cent of the territory has been expropriated by the Israelis for military purposes, to build settlements and roads. Practically every hilltop in the West Bank is crowned by a cluster of white houses with red roofs in a style totally alien to the local architecture. In addition, Israel reportedly plans to install in the occupied territories a large number of the 100,000 Soviet Jews it is trying to attract to the country.

"Every time a new settlement is created, an additional difficulty is set in the path of peace," Gjør said. "The authorities are using the settlements to make it more difficult to reach a political solution. I get the impression the Likud really plans to stay in the territories."

The European parliamentarians are also concerned by the economic situation, in particular since the EEC is trying to ensure that a direct trade agreement signed with Palestinian producers in October 1988 is respected by the Israeli authorities, which has not always been the case. "Israel has practised a policy of selective opening of the occupied territories' trade channels in a manner that ensures the greatest possible benefit for Israeli economic interests, with only coincidental regard for Palestinian developmental concerns," the UN report on the Palestinian economy points out.

European Parliament member Karla Peijs, 45,

from Holland, noted: "The economic situation I have seen is shocking. The Israelis make Palestinians pay taxes but do not use any of that money to build or improve infrastructure. The economic oppression is terrifying: the Israelis can cut off the water and electricity supplies, they refuse to issue permits for industrial construction. With the financial restrictions, Palestinians have no way of raising capital."

According to the UN report, "the continued stagnation of Palestinian industry might have been avoided were it not for the impact of Israeli policies... The Israeli authorities have also applied a range of measures which have acted to curb industrial development."

The all-female Parliamentary Association delegation also met a group of Palestinian and Israeli women who are working together for peace. The seven women involved — four Palestinians and three Israelis — stressed the important role women may have in the peace process. Naomi Khan, a well-known activist and professor at the Hebrew University in occupied Jerusalem, explained: "The problem with the Israeli peace movement is its fragmentation and lack of strategy. We are trying to expand horizontally and reach individual women who are closer to decision-making centres."

Admire

Asked for her comments at the end of the visit, German MP Monika Ganselorth, 48, said: "I admire the Palestinians for resisting with such solidarity, realism and almost no violence. They have been using stones, flags and burning tires for over two years, it is very contained but I don't know how long it can last."

"Something must be done quickly to change the life of people in the occupied territories. The human rights situation is so bad, we cannot wait for a political solution. If the peace process does not move forward, the hardliners on both the Palestinian and Israeli side will win, and in the end both sides will lose," she added.

Hyberte Hanquet, 63, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Belgian Senate, stressed: "It has become more urgent than ever to find a solution. Seen from inside the occupied territories, it does not look as though many Israelis are aware of the reality of the deplorable conditions people live in. The situation is pressing and dangerous."

Although each of the delegates said they were committed to taking some form of action at national level back home, by spreading information and raising the issue at the highest level of foreign policy-making, each admitted that Europe can do little to further the peace process outside the framework of an international peace conference. "One gets the impression that Israel doesn't give a damn what Europe thinks or advises," French parliamentarian Helene Mignon, 56, commented.

The delegates were unanimous in their views as to what the solution should be. Some were sceptical about its feasibility, but they agreed with Ganselorth's summing up: "The solution is very simple. There will have to be two states. The Palestinian and Israeli states will have to work together. They cannot live without each other." Concluded Hanquet: "Israel is a country that has always claimed to be democratic. It will have to accept a democratic solution."

Letters to the editor

Stray facts

SIR: With regards to the letter in the column on Feb 8-9, about the "cartoon Quran" recently on the market in France, the opinion of Butt is not based on Islamic facts.

The first duty of Muslims is to believe in the One true God, and to obey Him. Allah has said in the Holy Quran many times that to obey the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), is to obey Allah.

There are several authentic traditions (Ahadith) of the Prophet that not only state absolutely that making images in any form, be it drawings, paintings, statues, of any live thing (live meaning anything with a "fresh liver" as defined in a hadith of the Prophet; not trees, plants, sceneries, silhouettes, etc.) is forbidden, also that the maker of such images is cursed and one of the most hateful creatures of Allah's creation.

Allah says that on the Day of Judgement He will order those who drew, painted, or sculpted representations of live things to bring life to them, which, of course, they will never be able to do, then Allah will throw them into the hell fire, and that will be one of the greatest punishments in the hereafter.

So, if this is the result of making an image of any live thing, how much more severe will the consequences of making images of the prophets, and especially making the actual words of God a mockery by incorporating them with something he has expressly forbidden in any case.

There are other ways to give the message of Islam to children, and even adults by utilising interesting gimmicks to attract people and teach them, but we must always be very careful to stay within the limits set by God.

Yes, "A man who promotes and spreads the teachings of God in any harmless way whatsoever, should be held in high regard and respected..." but this "cartoon Quran" is clearly, as defined by God, not as harmless as it seems to be. Allah doesn't make laws and limitations without His divine wisdom and knowledge.

Mia Taha,
London

Sincere proposal

SIR: It was utterly appalling and almost contradictory to read the rather bizarre letter to the editor, which was actually a lecture, by Haider Mehdi entitled "Appalling statement," which appeared in the Arab Times Feb 4.

Mehdi's only motive was, as one can understand, was to undermine the real issue, which after all was only a sincere proposal by the president of the Pakistan People's Club of Kuwait Haji Afzal Noor. Mehdi, having missed the true meaning of the statement or perhaps deliberately misjudged it, proceeded through vulgar abuse decorated with elements of envy and wishful thinking.

He appears to be a "jack of all trades and master of none." His rather short-sighted ideas on Islam are dangerous. He wishes to educate the public by claiming to be an Islamic scholar categorically denying that charity is allowed in Islam. He had perhaps better conform to his profession as a teacher in the technical institute rather than offend the Muslim public.

"Love thy neighbour" is not only prescribed in Christianity but implemented in Islam and one aspect of love is to help the "poor and needy." The word "poor" here is a relative term and should be used as such rather than "economically deprived or less better off" or "imppecunious."

In closing, Mehdi should seriously consider the following proverb and be less impetuous: "Think much, speak little and write less."

Mohammad Farooq Qamar,
Fahsheel

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"I am well aware of the far-reaching consequences of this ecological drama that is unfolding. This is a task for a generation, not a government... I will endeavour to combat the political, ideological and even electoral exploitation of this issue." — Brazilian President to British businessmen on degradation of the Amazon rain forest because of protest in Britain over denuding the Brazilian rain forests.

"This is the first time in my life I broke party discipline by leaving... Shevardnadze joked after leaving a Central Committee meeting to meet Baker."

"The meeting is being held at a crucial moment for perestroika. It was preceded by a broad discussion in the party, during which demands were put forward for a radical democratisation of Soviet society, a reassessment of the role of the Soviet Communist Party as the leading political force in the country and the deepening of economic reform." — Tass on the Communist Party plenum.

"She is blunt, rash, emotional and speaks from the heart — that is why people respond to her and why she is controversial. Even during the crisis, Winnie had the support and loyalty of many, many people. She will remain highly visible and widely respected." — Fatima Meer, author of a best-selling biography on Nelson Mandela, said in an interview.

"I am confident that Mandela will play a positive role in the shaping of a non-racial South Africa. I now look forward to the remaining obstacles to genuine negotiations... being removed." — President Qutb Masire of Botswana about Nelson Mandela's release.

"It is something that has been awaited by all freedom-loving people for a very long time. Mr. Mandela should never have been imprisoned for the views that he held and the party that he leads, but all the same we are pleased that at last he is being released." — Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said on Nelson Mandela's release.

"Freedom cannot be given in doses. One is either free or not free — not half-free. Unity, not just between the oppressed, but between all South Africans, is the critical catalyst in resolving the problems in our country." — South African Press Association quoted Nelson Mandela as saying during an interview.

"This is clearly a time of great change in the Soviet Union, which is making a great effort to reform economically and politically, and to emphasize the importance of the introduction of pluralism into the political system, something the United States strongly supports." — Baker giving support to Soviet reforms.

Art Buchwald

Reformers look to US for help

AN assistant secretary came into the State Department Kitchen and said, "Old Mother Hubbard, we need 5 billion bones for East Germany."

Mother Hubbard replied, "My cupboard is bare. Hungary cleaned me out last week."

The secretary sounded grim. "Nation is achieving independence, but they can't do it without bones. Have you looked carefully?"

Mother Hubbard told him, "I know a bare shelf when I see one. If I were you, I'd inform the next country asking for bones that they are barking up the wrong tree."

"We can't do that," the secretary said. "We've been telling the people of every enslaved country that if they break the chains that bind them, we will supply them with everything needed to become a democratic nation."

Bones

"Look, I just store the bones. I don't make them. Before the White House tells Bulgaria to jump over to our side, they could at least check to see how many bones are left in the cupboard."

The secretary became agitated. "What's going on today is bigger than a bread basket. We thought that only one country would liberate itself this year — and perhaps another

country would do the same next year. How could we have known that they would all torch their governments at the same time? If you don't have any bones in the cabinet, do you have anything that Romania can chew on?"

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard and opened the doors wide. "Do you see something that I don't? And why the pressure?"

"Guess who's coming to dinner? Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia."

"You're kidding."

"And Chile."

Cool it

"Tell Chile to cool it — at least until we find some bones for Panama. Why don't we just issue junk bonds to the liberated countries and charge it to Bloomingdale's?"

An intern came in and announced, "Mr Secretary, the Polish ambassador is out in the hall. He says that the president promised Lech Walesa 6 billion bones when he toasted him at the White House. He was wondering if he could have them now."

The secretary responded, "I was there and the president promised no such thing. Why is it that every time some freedom fighters liberate themselves, they come to us for aid?"

Mother Hubbard added, "Someone should

tell Poland that knocking off Communism does not guarantee them Rose Garden. In any case, when it concerns bones, I'm not going to give any to El Salvador. Doesn't the president know that the cupboard is bare?"

The secretary said, "He does and he doesn't. Every time we tell him we have no bones, he says, 'We would if we cut the capital gains tax.'"

Afraid

Mother Hubbard sounded upset, "Do you know what really gives me nightmares? I am so afraid that someday you will come into the kitchen and inform me that the Chinese have overthrown their leaders, and we have to give them bones."

"I don't see that happening soon," the assistant secretary assured her.

"I'd trust you more, but you are the person who declared that the Berlin Wall would never come down." Mother Hubbard reminded him.

"Can we talk about Central America?" the secretary asked.

"We can talk about it as long as we don't have to give them any bones," Mother Hubbard declared.

"We have to. None of those countries is going to come over to our side for peanuts." Los Angeles Times syndicate

الوقت

Free at last

Party, tension, apprehension

(Continued from Page 1)

President F.W. de Klerk, who has lifted a 30-year ban on the ANC, said he was releasing Mandela as a gesture to show the government's commitment to peaceful change in South Africa.

Mandela's route into Cape Town was lined with tens of thousands of people, black and white, some crying with emotion, who seemed on the road and slowed the speed of the convoy.

But before Mandela could appear on a balcony overlooking the Cape Town Square, violence erupted as marshallers battled to keep control of the huge rally, the city's biggest since World War Two.

Police fired birdshot and rubber bullets to disperse parts of the crowd after bottle-throwing youths smashed windows and looted shops on the square.

The South African Press Association reported that one person had been killed and 12 injured by the gunfire. First aid workers said one person was killed and more than 200 people injured.

Looters threw clothes on to the pavement and squabbled over their pickings before fleeing into the crowd.

Most of the injured were treated for gunshot wounds, paramedics said. Before the sporadic and scattered shooting began in the late afternoon, more than 60 people were treated suffering from dehydration, fractured limbs caused by the crush of the crowd and injuries suffered when a roof overlooking the grand parade collapsed, hospital officials and paramedics said.

The shooting finally started when police tried to halt looters, continuing into the evening, including one heavy burst of police fire at 7:30 pm that sent hundreds of people to the ground to protect themselves from the pellets. Dozens were taken for treatment.

About two dozen soldiers in riot gear massed outside Grand Parade in adjacent downtown area while helicopters hovered overhead.

Clashes between police and celebrating blacks were reported in at least two other areas, while in Johannesburg thousands of young blacks received an escort from traffic police as they ran triumphantly through the city.

Columns of cheering activists jogged through Durban and other cities.

Anti-apartheid cleric Allan Boesak, one of the rally organisers, appealed for calm and said people were being crushed by the crowds.

Residents said they had unconfirmed reports that police travelling in a car through Midrand township in the independent homeland of Ciskei shot dead three people among a crowd celebrating the release.

There was no immediate comment from authorities in the homeland, which runs its own police force.

Dr Aslam Dasoo, tending the injured at a first aid station, said about 100 people had been hurt, and journalists counted 130 injuries. There was no immediate statement from police.

In Johannesburg, hundreds of young blacks, joined by a few whites, ran through downtown streets shouting, "Viva ANC" after the release. Traffic police patrol cars cleared the way for them.

In Soweto, the sprawling black township outside Johannesburg where Mandela has his home, crowds of supporters danced and sang in celebration, many under

'New dawn for SA'

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11, (AP): Amid the scenes of wild jubilation over the release of Nelson Mandela, there were also some ugly confrontations between cheering blacks and angry whites.

Many whites looked worried or scared as they watched cheering and singing blacks surging through parts of central Johannesburg. Elegantly dressed whites shrank back as the black throngs danced around them.

While most people, black and white, were well-behaved, a handful of blacks taunted whites, yelling "Freedom is coming. Whites get out." A few furious whites lashed out, hurling bottles and insults at the blacks.

For some South Africans, the scattered incidents of racial tension were worrying signs of what might happen in the days ahead when the government and anti-apartheid groups attempt to negotiate over ending white rule. Many people in the crowd spoke of the need for peace and understanding between the races.

At the elegant Carlton shopping mall, three young black men surrounded a young white couple, spitting on the frightened pair and shaking fists at them. Other blacks intervened and chased the taunters away.

As blacks surged through Hillbrow, near the city centre, early today some whites in apartments overlooking the street hurled empty bottles at the celebrants. The marchers screamed insults and shook their fists, but no injuries were seen.

Frightened white motorists caught in the milling masses in the streets leaned on their horns or scattered the crowds by driving at high speed. Some clenched their fists in revolutionary salutes in apparent attempts to placate hooting blacks.

A white man watching the celebrants from his doorstep said: "Look at them, look at them. What is happening to South Africa?" Some black youths pretended to fire imaginary machine-guns at police vans filled with white officers shadowing the celebrants. Other blacks ran up to the vans, yelling "get out, get out."

But much larger groups of blacks shouted "peace, peace, peace." Most blacks and whites spoke of the need to work out South Africa's problems peacefully. "I pray to God we have peace in South Africa," said one black marcher. "We must all live together."

Leaders on both sides have expressed fears that white and black extremists will provoke violence in the months ahead to try and derail negotiations for their own ends. White extremists demand the retention of white supremacy, while some black militants oppose a compromise with whites.

"I fear what is coming. It will be a terrible time, but we must overcome it by working together," said the Rev. Allan Boesak, a top anti-apartheid leader.

South Africa's biggest black township, Soweto, erupted into a spontaneous party today as thousands of people ignored torrential rain and took to the streets to celebrate the release of Nelson Mandela.

"Mandela brought the rain, it is a new dawn for South Africa," said a drenched young woman wearing the black, green and gold colours of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Rain during a celebration is a sign of good luck in Africa. Soaked but happy people lined almost every street, watching the young dance and shout, after television showed the veteran black nationalist walking from prison near Cape Town after 27 years behind bars.

But the joyous and light-hearted mood in Soweto contrasted sharply to central Cape Town, where, even before Mandela appeared to give a speech, violence erupted as police battled to keep control of the biggest rally in the city for 45 years.

Police fired birdshot and rubber bullets to disperse parts of the crowd after bottle-throwing youths smashed windows and looted shops on the square.

Witnesses said dozens of men and women and at least one child were being treated for gunshot wounds in a makeshift shelter at the side of the city's historic Grand Parade.

In Soweto, which has more than two million people, the party focussed on the street where Mandela's single storey house stands, and to which he is due to go tomorrow.

umbrellas because of a steady rain.

Police fired shotguns and tear gas at a crowd of celebrating blacks in the Duncanville township outside east London, an Indian Ocean port bordering Ciskei, residents said, adding at least one person was injured.

In contrast, the mood was light-hearted in Johannesburg's black Soweto township, where thousands of people gathered outside the Mandela's tiny "matchbox" house and formed a human chain on hearing news of his release.

Mandela is expected to stay in Cape Town until Monday, when he will return to his home in Soweto.

As he spoke in Cape Town, state television broadcast Man-

delas speaking for the first time by showing a profile of the ANC leader that included footage from a 1961 interview he gave to the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The profile also featured recently-taped interviews with a series of anti-apartheid activists rarely quoted by state media including veteran campaigners Helen Suzman and Fatima Meer, Mandela's biographer.

South African television later broadcast taped excerpts from Mandela's Cape Town speech.

Mandela has been living in a former warden's cottage at the Victor Verster facility since December 1988, after moving from the maximum security Robben Island prison off the Cape Town coast.



Mandela salutes well-wishers as he leaves prison. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lawyer recalls Rivonia trial

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela's first act on being sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 was to raise his fist and shout "Amandla" (power), a defiant black nationalist slogan.

"The tables were turned. The accused became the accusers," recalled lawyer George Bizos, a junior member of the legal team that defended eight black activists including Mandela, jailed for life at the "Rivonia" trial for trying to overthrow white minority rule.

He said Mandela's famous address from the dock, in which he said he was prepared to die to achieve a non-racial South Africa, had helped avert a death sentence for the eight.

"What do you do to a man who says 'I am prepared to die for what I

believe in'?" Bizos, 62, told the Star newspaper, adding the defence had deliberately decided to put Mandela on the stand to explain his beliefs.

"The defence was a political defence and not a defence in which people ran for cover...it tended to make people, including the judge, sit back and think: 'What are we really concerned with here?'"

"I think he touched a chord in the hearts and minds of the majority of South Africans. It is possibly one of the reasons why he has acquired the status he has now."

At the end of Mandela's speech, said anti-apartheid activist Albertina Sisulu, "You could hear a pin drop...to us, his people, Mandela is everything."

Bizos said Mandela showed

"tremendous dignity" and lack of concern for himself during the eight-month trial.

"I was considered a rather inexperienced counsel in some quarters, but Mandela made me feel valuable," he said.

The eight, arrested at their hideout in the Rivonia farm north of Johannesburg in 1963, poked their fists through air vents of a police van as they were driven away at the end of the trial. This provoked defiant roars and freedom songs from hundreds of black supporters gathered outside the court.

The New York Times said: "To most of the world, (the Rivonia eight) are heroes and freedom fighters, the George Washingtons and Ben Franklins of South Africa."

NOTEBOOK

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela's jail years were spent breaking rocks in a quarry, campaigning for better prison conditions and studying for a law degree.

Following are sketches of some prison experiences of Mandela, 71, and other activities sentenced with him in 1964 to life imprisonment for trying to overthrow white rule.

They are drawn from published accounts and a Reuters interview with former fellow inmate Ahmed Kathrada.

■ "The warders told us 'the world has forgotten you'. That was the main message when we arrived on Robben Island" — Kathrada.

■ Mandela and other jailed on the bleak island off Cape Town ate maize porridge and vegetables, lived in individual stone cells seven feet by seven feet (two metres by two metres) and, for the first few years, were allowed a half hour visit and one letter every six months.

■ In January 1965, Mandela and other prisoners were marched to a limestone quarry, given picks and shovels and told to break rocks. It became their daily routine for 10 years.

■ In the quarry, Mandela suffered chronic persecution by a burly white Afrikaner (Dutch-descended) warder who had a swastika tattooed on the back of one hand.

He hurled abuse at Mandela for failing to work hard enough, invariably adding the comment: "We have never lost a war yet — and we will not lose one now."

■ One day the prisoners were led, not to the quarry, but to a prison yard where they were given old clothing to sew. "We were pleased. It was better than breaking rocks," Kathrada said.

Shortly afterwards photographers from the Daily Telegraph of London arrived and took pictures — among the very few photographers ever allowed on Robben Island.

The next day Mandela and the others returned to the quarry.

■ Political prisoners also collected seaweed from beaches and repaired roads but they did manage to study. Mandela took courses in Afrikaans, economics, history and law.

At meal times, one warder "would lean against our food table and think nothing of urinating right there if the urge took him," Mandela says in a recently-published biography.

■ Mandela helped lead campaigns for better prison conditions. "He often guided us in the campaigns... and showed tremendous persistence. We have waged hunger strikes. We have waged go-slows. We have petitioned, filed written complaints and verbal complaints," former inmate Mac Maharaj said.

■ In 1974, all but three political prisoners on Robben Island fell ill for five days with flu and were too weak to get up. In the mornings Mandela, who remained in good health, went from cell to cell emptying and washing each cell's toilet bucket. He also helped feed the prisoners.

■ "Sometimes I feel like one who is on the sidelines, who has missed life itself," Mandela wrote in 1979.

■ "One deprivation of long imprisonment is not being able to see children. Occasionally on the island a white warder's child would wander into view. The warders would come and chase them away" — Kathrada.

■ "The censorship was very tight. In 1969, when men landed on the moon, that was something they thought we shouldn't hear."

■ In 1964 my brother wrote me a letter. The prison authorities said I couldn't receive it because it was objectionable... in 1982, they finally gave it to me. The objectionable material was that Harold Wilson and the Labour Party had won the British general election" — Kathrada.

■ For 22 years Mandela was refused "contact" visits, in which prisoners may hug and hold hands with relatives in the presence of a warder and be able to see visitors through a glass screen.

■ In 1984 that changed. "We kissed Nelson and held him a long time. It is an experience that you just can't put into words," said his wife Winnie, who visited him with a grandchild. "It was fantastic and happening at the same time. He clung to the child right through the visit."

■ "Had it not been for your visits, wonderful letters and your love, I would have fallen apart years ago," he wrote to his wife in 1979.

Brothers

Factions

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11, (AP): Although most South African blacks are jubilant over Nelson Mandela's release, his African National Congress movement remains locked in bitter feuds with major black factions to its left and right.

Mandela himself is so revered that no black leader has said a bad word about him in public.

Yet the ANC, in whose name Mandela endured 27 years in prison is considered a sellout by some black-consciousness militants and a power-hungry, Marxist-influenced party by some black conservatives.

The most influential of the ANC's black critics is Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organization that claims 1.5 million members. More than 2,500 blacks have died in a three-year power struggle between Inkatha and ANC supporters in Natal Province.

Buthelezi depicts himself as a long-time foe of apartheid and an old friend of Mandela, but he contends that the ANC is unjustifiably trying to claim the role as principal negotiator for the black community.

"It was Inkatha's refusal to be

co-opted into the ANC and its refusal to become a subservient bag-carrier to the ANC that led to the two organizations being in conflict," Buthelezi said after Mandela's release was announced.

"There will be a conference table searching for the formula for a multiparty democracy," Buthelezi added. "Dr Mandela will be there. I will be there. The ANC will be there. Inkatha will be there."

Buthelezi said Mandela, more so than any other black leader, has the potential to put partisan interests aside and promote black unity.

One faction that is unlikely to join in negotiations is the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), which along with the ANC was banned in 1960 and legalized by President F.W. de Klerk earlier this month.

The PAC espouses black self-reliance and contends that whites play too large a role in ANC-aligned groups. It has criticised the ANC's increasing interest in negotiations, saying black-white talks should take place only when the government is ready to hand over political power and end white ownership of the bulk of the country's land.

World's most famous prisoner returns to his fold

'Democratic and free society is my ideal for which I'm prepared to die'

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has dominated the fight against apartheid in South Africa for three decades from his prison cell, inspiring fierce loyalty at home and abroad.

President F.W. de Klerk's decision to release the African National Congress (ANC) leader, announced yesterday after the two met on Friday, set a landmark in the country's history. The world's most famous prisoner was returning to his supporters.

Once De Klerk resolved to abandon apartheid's rigid race segregation and negotiate a constitution giving blacks a say in government, Mandela appeared as the only man offering the moral authority necessary to represent the many black factions.

Mandela was arrested in 1962 and his last public address was a speech from the dock almost two years later at his trial for sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the white-ruled government.

Calling himself a nationalist, but not a Communist, Mandela said his outlawed ANC had no option but to fight the violence of apartheid with violence of its own.

"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and

free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities," he told the court.

"It is an ideal which I hope to live for and achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Mandela was jailed for life with seven others on June 12, 1964, and disappeared to the cold stone cells of Robben Island, an offshore prison near Cape Town, where he was forced to break rocks for more than 12 years until his transfer to a mainland jail.

He refused to bargain for his own release, rejected offers of liberty in exile and shored up the faith of his people through two rebellions against white rule just by being there.

On Robben Island, in Cape Town's modern Pollsmoor prison and recently alone in a luxury prison bungalow among the vineyards of Paarl, his influence remained undiminished through the imprisonment he called "these long, lonely, wasted years."

Township revolutionaries, moderate black leaders and exiled activists throughout the world invoked his name in heroic terms. Moderate whites saw him as the only one who could prevent bloody civil war.

Streets and squares were named after him around the world. Peace prizes and honorary

degrees were awarded to him in East and West. In 1984, a pop song entitled 'Free Nelson Mandela' became an international hit.

The campaign for his release rose from a murder in the 1960s to an international clamour when he marked his 70th birthday on July 18, 1988, a month before he was transferred to hospital with tuberculosis.

For 25 years he was allowed no more than two 40-minute visits a month from his family. But in Paarl, where he told friends he was lonelier than ever in a former warden's house with a swimming pool, some restrictions were lifted.

His transfer to the Victor Verster Prison was widely seen as a prelude to release, but government officials said the final decision would be taken by ex-president F.W. de Klerk. Mandela gambled his reputation with a visit to the presidential offices in Cape Town for a 45-minute tea party with his old adversary.

"My task is a very limited one, and that is to bring the country's two major political bodies to the negotiating table," Mandela wrote to Botha, adding that as a prisoner he could not

negotiate himself.

"A meeting between the government and the ANC will be the first major step towards lasting peace in the country," he said.

The sensational meeting, after which Mandela called for peaceful development, paved the way for De Klerk's announcement that he would be set free.

The announcement of Mandela's release came less than four months after De Klerk freed five of Mandela's closest comrades and co-accused and three other anti-apartheid leaders.

Mandela himself is credited with helping his former comrades to liberty during meetings in his prison cell with Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee.

For his own part, Mandela insisted always on unconditional release, consistently refusing to repudiate as the price of liberty the ANC guerrilla war against white rule.

Mandela was a founder of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), which began a campaign of bombing and urban guerrilla attacks in 1960.

From his prison cells he insisted that the struggle must go on, but he distanced himself from his more hardline supporters.

"We go for hard targets only — military

installations and the symbols of apartheid. Civilians must not be touched," he said in early 1985.

Mandela resisted radical pressure from rival liberation movements, telling an American lawyer in January 1986: "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, whites in South Africa belong here. This is their home we want them to live here with us and share power with us."

All who have visited him, even government officials, speak of Mandela's commanding presence — a lean, gentle, white-haired man who speaks softly and deliberately.

Friends from earlier days remarked on his charisma, eloquence and powerful voice. A close friend said that as an orator he had "an animal magnetism that attracts the masses like pollen attracts bees."

Mandela's message has been kept alive by his second wife, Winnie, who was left behind with their two daughters Zenani and Zindzi in Johannesburg's black Soweto township.

Winnie Mandela was detained without trial, banished to a remote town where the local blacks did not speak her language and had her home burned in an attack for which the government eventually paid compensation.

In July 1986 the government lifted the restrictions and she had a brief period of world renown that ended when her personal bodyguard, the self-styled Mandela United football club, became involved in a series of murder and assault investigations.

She was repeatedly reprimanded by her husband until, in February 1989, anti-apartheid leaders publicly repudiated her and she sank from public view.

Her standing improved last October as rumours of her husband's release gathered momentum. She shared the stage with Mandela's co-accused, including Walter Sisulu, as they ended decades of captivity with an ecstatic welcome from supporters.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in a mud hut in the Transkei in eastern Cape Province on July 18, 1918, the son of a Xhosa chief, and was educated at Fort Hare, a college for blacks.

He went to Johannesburg to study law while working as a gold mine security guard and the for Sisulu as an estate agent.

He married Evelyn Nomathamsanga, a nurse who helped finance his studies but disapproved strongly of his growing involvement in the ANC. The marriage eventually broke up.



Soweto residents give the clenched fist sign during a rally held when it was announced that Mandela will be freed. (Reuters wirephotos)



A member of neo-Nazi movement shows a placard asking the govt to free Barand Strydom, who killed eight blacks.



Soweto township residents dance in the streets at the news of Mandela's imminent freedom.

World leaders hail Mandela freedom

Thatcher wants EEC to lift sanctions against Pretoria

LONDON, Feb 11, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela's emergence today from nearly half a lifetime in prison touched off international rejoicing and brought praise from world leaders, tempered by appeals for swifter progress toward dismantling apartheid.

Iran today urged Mandela, to shun an invitation to visit Britain lest he hurt the anti-apartheid cause.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Britain was a prime backer of white minority rule in South Africa and responsible for "decades of crimes by whites in Africa."

"If Mandela goes to London, what arrogance desires will come to pass, that is, achievements of decades of struggle will be thrown to the wind," he told a rally marking the 11th anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution.

"How come the British prime minister has suddenly become a freedom-lover?" Rafsanjani asked.

King Hussein of Jordan hailed the release of Mandela and said his struggle would inspire Palesti-

inians struggling for independence.

"This concession by the government of South Africa and its decision to release Mandela, the freedom fighter, reaffirms the certainty of man's victory everywhere in his just battle against the forces of evil, terrorism and apartheid," the Jordanian King said in a written statement to Reuters.

"The years of his imprisonment will remain a sign of pride and glory in the life of the black people of South Africa and those of their white brothers who constantly fought apartheid."

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak sent a message of congratulations to Mandela, on his imminent release from 27 years in South African jail, Cairo Radio reported today.

The state-run radio said Mubarak, the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, told Mandela in a telegram that the decision to release him was a victory for human rights everywhere.

"The decision to release you is a victory for human rights everywhere," Mubarak said.

LONDON, Feb 11, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today she would suggest to European Economic Community members that they lift some sanctions against South Africa as a reward for releasing black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

"I shall be approaching the European Economic Community and suggesting that... since we got Mr Mandela released that we do consider lifting some of the sanctions," Thatcher told British television.

This was no time to use sticks no matter how small, she said, adding: "I think a little incentive and a little

encouragement goes a long way in these circumstances."

Britain's national news agency, the Press Association, said Thatcher had written to fellow Commonwealth and EEC leaders urging a new, positive approach towards South Africa.

Thatcher, one of Pretoria's mildest critics, is tipped to be the first major Western leader to visit South Africa after Mandela's release. She has already invited President F.W. de Klerk and Mandela to visit Britain.

Thatcher hailed De Klerk's decision to free Man-

dela as a wise move and said yesterday she saw no further reason to discourage new investment in South Africa.

Her remarks drew criticism from opposition parties who say pressure against Pretoria must be maintained until the state of emergency is lifted and white-minority rule is ended.

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said he had written to Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey, current President of the EEC, urging that sanctions against South Africa remain in force.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) in London said Mandela's release showed that international pressure worked and pledged to oppose any effort by the British government to relax sanctions.

A statement added: "The Anti-Apartheid Movement on this historic day pledges itself to continue the fight against apartheid with all the resources it can command until apartheid is finally destroyed and until all the people of South Africa are truly free."

It called on supporters throughout Britain to write to Thatcher with the message: "apartheid must go; sanctions must stay."

Bloodiest fighting between Christians

Death toll rises to 457

(Continued from Page 1)

Police said about 25,000 Christians have crossed the Green Line's through the mid-city Museum Crossing, a 500-yard (metre) gateway into West Beirut, in the last three days.

Five months ago, the Christians were being slaughtered by Syrian shellfire in a six-month battle between Aoun's troops and the Syrian army, which he considers an occupation force.

Nearly 50,000 other Christians have in recent days fled the enclave over the mountains that run down its eastern flank, police reported.

"It's very ironic," said Simon Hajjar after darting across the Green Line. "We're fleeing to the Syrians from Christian leaders battling each other under the slogan of ridding Lebanon of Syrian occupation."

As he spoke, gunfire and shell blasts boomed in East Beirut's Ashrafieh residential district and the working-class quarter of Ein Rummaneh, both Geagea strongholds that border the Green Line.

Police said Aoun's troops and Geagea's militiamen fought all night in pouring rain in the narrow alleyways of the two districts. But neither side apparently made any significant territorial gains.

A police spokesman, said shelling duels were raging in the snow-capped mountains of Kesrouan, a Maronite Catholic province.

Aoun's troops drove the

Lebanese Forces out of the key highway town of Kleiat in an armoured thrust yesterday. Mediators representing Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, the Maronites' spiritual leader, called a ceasefire for 6 pm (1600 GMT) and another for 11 pm (2100 GMT) yesterday. But the fighting continued unabated.

Both Aoun and Geagea are Maronites, the main Christian sect which has dominated power in Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

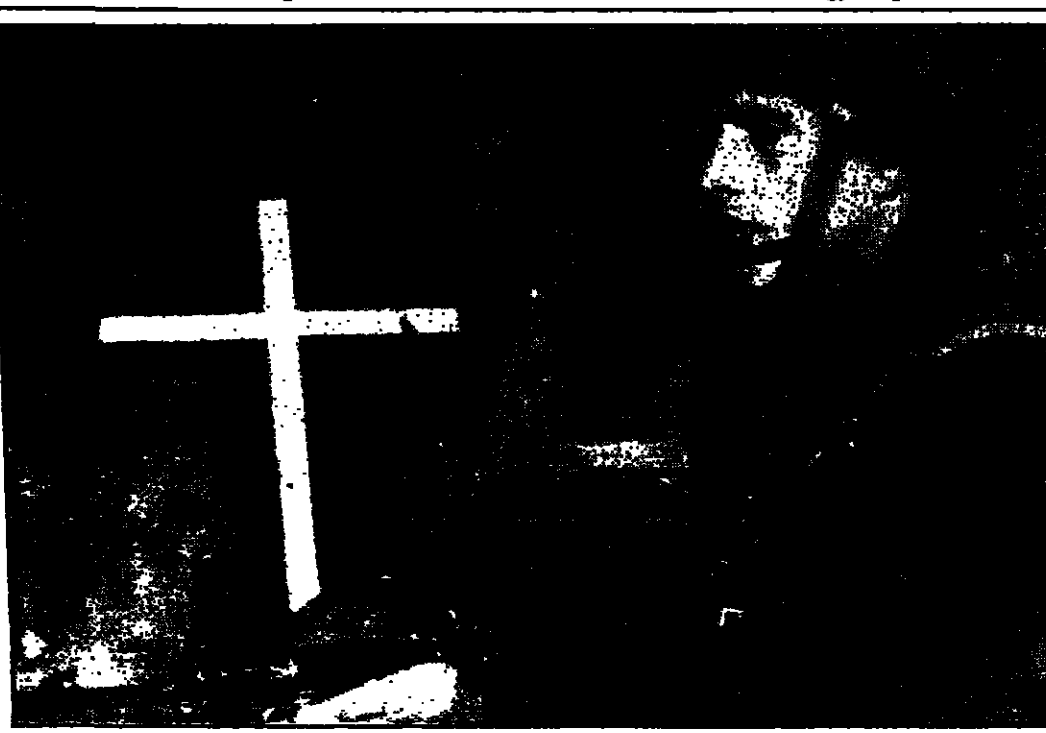
France's minister for humanitarian aid assistance, Bernard Kouchner, left Beirut yesterday, admitting he failed to work out a settlement.

Geagea made a new appeal to Pope John Paul II to "redouble Your Holiness' efforts to stop this horrendous bloodbath brought on the Christians by a mad general."

"The Christians of Lebanon are threatened with extinction, not at the hands of external enemies, but by Gen. Aoun from within," Geagea said in the appeal broadcast by Christian radio stations.

The push by Aoun's 19,000 troops into Kesrouan undermined the general's determination to crush Geagea's militia, which has 6,000 hardcore fighters and thousands more reservists.

It is the only force challenging his authority in the 310-square-kilometre (800-square-mile) Christian enclave, where an estimated one million people live.



On guard

A heavily armed Christian Lebanese Forces militiaman guards an armoured personnel carrier in north of Beirut. Warring Christian armies used a shaky truce to bolster new frontline position north of the capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Warring Christians tear Beirut enclave apart

No sanctuary for Lebanon fugitives

BIKFAYIA, Lebanon, Feb 11, (Reuters): For hapless and terrified civilians, there is no place to hide as Lebanon's warring Christians tear their community's enclave apart. Habib Aoun got his family out of the city suburb of Dora as battles engulfed much of East Beirut. They fled to the mountain villages of the Kesrouan district to the northeast. He thought they might be safe. But on Saturday the war between

General Michel Aoun's troops and the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia came to the pretty resorts of Klaita, Ajlout and Rayfoun.

Aoun was a refugee again. "God has protected us," he told Reuters on the road south to Bkfaiya. "We don't have shelters in the villages, no safe place to hide."

Aoun finally managed to flee Ajlout late on Saturday night after a day of attacks, counter-attacks and

savage bombardments which wrecked many of the red-tiled stone homes.

"The shelling was random and indiscriminate. Roads are cratered by shells and there is a lot of destruction," he said.

Aoun's tense journey south to the outskirts of Bkfaiya, normally some 30 minutes away by car, took 10 hours amid halts to avoid random shelling.

Bkfaiya, hometown of LF founder Bashir Gemayel, lies inland from the coastal strip running from East Beirut to the mountains where both sides have fought for the past 11 days.

Bartered cars packed with people and a meagre assortment of possessions streamed away from the mountain villages, where the combatants reinforced positions on Sunday in preparation for another round.

"We have not slept for two nights. Animals are treated better," said Mounir Al Haj, who fled at dawn from Rayfoun. "We had no power, no phone, no food, no water — on top of the fighting."

"We couldn't put our nose outside," said his wife Nabila, who said at least two civilians were killed in their village. "We only knew that all hell broke loose on us. Shells were falling like rain."



Aoun

E. Beirut hospital carries on despite direct hits, shortages

BEIRUT, Feb 11, (AP): The little boy cringed in fear when a 155mm Howitzer shell crashed near the battle-scarred Hotel Dieu Hospital, the largest in Christian East Beirut.

His mother sitting at his bedside poured fruit juice from a thermos emblazoned with a Bauman logo and tried to calm him. "Don't worry, Camille," she said. "It's only Thunder. They're the cannons of God. They don't hurt."

"But it's not raining mother," the boy muttered.

The comforting lie no longer works in Lebanon, where the shells have been falling for nearly 15 years of civil war between Muslims and Christians.

This time, Christian is killing Christian as rebel Gen. Michel Aoun's troops and warlord Samir Geagea's Lebanese forces battle for control of the Christian sector.

Camille is one of 150 patients crowded into

the fetid corridors of the French-financed Hotel Dieu.

Alain Tessier, the hospital's French director, said 190 casualties have been brought in over the last 13 days, 21 of them dead on arrival.

More than 450 people have been killed and 1,700 wounded since the bloodletting began Jan 30.

Surgeon Pierre Farah said some of the wounded died because ambulances could not get them to the hospital through the embattled streets.

"Some had lost limbs, others were badly burned," he said wearily. "They just got here too late."

One who did make it was a Lebanese forces fighter, whose left leg was blown off Feb 1 by an army shell in nearby Ein Rummaneh.

The militiaman, who did not want to give his name, said: "I was crying for help, but no

one could get to me because of the shelling. Finally, my neighbours came out of their shelter and dragged me in until they could find a car to take me to hospital."

The hospital has been hit by 15 shells. Doctors and nurses evacuated patients from the top two floors because they were so exposed.

Tessier said: "We couldn't count how many shells fell in the gardens because it's impossible to climb on the roof and see. There are too many snipers."

All the telephone lines have been knocked out so Tessier got hold of a radio phone yesterday that connects him directly with the French Embassy.

"Yesterday we had five shells hit around the hospital," he said. "I contacted the embassy and asked them to please tell the army not to target us."

The hospital stands on the edge of the

residential district of Ashrafieh, a Geagea stronghold ringed by Aoun's troops to the east, Beirut's dividing green line to the south-east and the Mediterranean to the north.

The hospital is running low on just about everything, bread, oxygen, antibiotics and blood. However, Tessier said the Red Cross got 10,000 litres (2,200 gallons) of water and some bread a couple of days ago during a lull. Farah noted: "The hospital staff gave their blood to the wounded."

The morgue is overflowing with the bodies because the families of the slain have not been able to get through to retrieve them. The hospital's last well-equipped ambulance was blasted by a shell yesterday.

Those who make it to the hospital past the shellfire and snipers have to clamber up a rickety wooden ladder over the back wall because the main entrance is too exposed.

All roads leading into Ashrafieh are mixed except for an overpass from Muslim West Beirut 50 yards (metres) from the hospital. Locals call it "the ramp of death" because anyone traversing it has to run a gauntlet of sniper fire.

A doctor said at least three people a day are shot on that road trying to get to the hospital.

But the other end is sniper country. Several decomposing corpses have been lying on the muddy road or in cars for days because no one can reach them.

The body of a man lies in foetal position beside a white Mercedes. Another is slumped over the wheel of his Plymouth.

Other burned-out cars, including a Lebanese Red Cross van, litter the street. Nobody stops to count how many dead there are in them. Drivers stop on the gas on this stretch.

The International and Lebanese Red Cross have evacuated at least 50 wounded from

Hotel Dieu. Sixteen were sent to France for treatment in a mission organised by Bernard Kouchner, France's minister for humanitarian aid.

One was Micheline Baruta, who lost an eye. Her mother, who worked at the hospital, was killed by gunfire as she drove the girl to Hotel Dieu.

The remaining patients, hooked to serum and plasma tubes, lie on beds lining both sides of the corridors on the hospital's first floor and the underground shelter.

Hospital staffers risked their lives to drive to the summer resort of Bkfaiya in the mountains 12 miles (20 kilometres) northeast of Ashrafieh, to get eggs and meat.

Guinea Kaza, a nurse, said: "We've never been through anything like this before. I've got a cold but they don't give me antibiotics because we keep it for the patients. I have to wear a mask when I got near the patients."

JAWHARA

MIDEAST

Afghan general confident Mujahedeen losses heavy

KABUL, Feb 11, (AP): A senior Afghan general has asserted that rebel losses were 10 times those of the government since the Soviet Union ended its combat support for President Najib's troops nearly a year ago.

Lt. Gen. Abdul Haq Ulumi claimed the government had made strong military and political progress towards vanquishing the US-backed Muslim rebels who have been waging a decade-old war against the Soviet-supported communist leadership in Kabul.

Referring to reports that Moscow and Washington were considering compromises that could include a scaling down of aid to both sides, Ulumi said it was "very much too early to speak about what we should give up and what they should give up."

First, he said, there should be a ceasefire, international guarantees, elections and formation of a "broad-based government." The Mujahedeen, or Islamic holy warriors, have steadfastly refused any ceasefire or negotiations with Najib and his Soviet-style party.

Ulumi is secretary of the Supreme Military Council for the defence of the homeland and a ranking member of the central committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Speaking to foreign journalists through an interpreter, he said that since the Soviet Union ended nine years of military intervention, Najib's troops had proved their staying power and ability to go it alone against the Mujahedeen.

"Indeed, the government still holds every majority in Afghanistan and has made deals with scores of local commanders who once fought on behalf of the Mujahedeen.

But the fighting continues in much of the countryside and around several key provincial capitals. Mujahedeen rockets



An elderly Afghan holds his grand-daughter at the grave of a family member who was killed in recent rocket attacks. (Reuters wirephoto)

still fall on Kabul, although with far less frequency than a year ago.

The last Red Army troops crossed the border into the Soviet Union on Feb 15, 1989, but Moscow continues to provide supplies of weapons and food.

Ulumi claimed that in the past year "58,000 of the enemy have been destroyed or removed from the scene of battle," he defined "removed" as those who were

Concern at Jews exodus to Israel

AMMAN, Feb 11, (Agencies): As a flood of Soviet Jews heads for Israel, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan says the world should match its concern for the plight of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

In an interview with Reuters, he said Israel was talking of raising \$2 billion from government and private sources to finance the absorption of about half-a-million Soviet Jews expected over the next few years.

"I would ask the international community where is the comparable level of interest in support for Palestinian people and Palestinian identity on Palestinian soil," Hassan said.

The crown prince, who in October was among the first to voice Arab alarm at the influx of Soviet Jews, said a difference in living standards between Palestinians and the newcomers would exacerbate tension and extremism.

"How can the 1.7 million Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip sit by and watch these privileged citizens moving in with... a per capita (income) maybe two or three times more than their own?" he asked. "I cannot see a peaceful environment emerging out of these contradictions."

If Soviet Jews, initially settled in the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas, were later moved to the West Bank and Golan Heights, "then clearly it is going to be a very direct threat and the menace of transfer will be that much closer," the prince said.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said that Jordan has asked the Soviet Union to halt Jewish emigration to Israel until the Palestinian problem is solved and welcomed Moscow's suggestion that the issue be referred to the UN Security Council.

"We have asked the Soviet Union to postpone the emigration until the Palestinian problem has been solved," Begin told the Associated Press during a break in a Parliament session.

He said that Jordan "made it clear that if this immigration was to be to the Israeli-occupied territories, it means that we started practical steps towards crushing all future peace chances."

"The premier praised a recent Soviet proposal to discuss such emigration before the United Nations Security Council — a stand that mirrors Jordan's."

"We welcome such a move," Begin said, describing it as a "very positive move."

But he criticised Israeli efforts to open direct flights from the Soviet Union to Israel — a plan that has been stalled due to the controversy over emigration to the occupied territories.

"This is a roadblock in the way of peace. The whole idea of the Jewish exodus is roadblock... and it will not achieve any steps towards a settlement," Begin said.

The prince repeated a call for an Arab delegation to tour the United States, the Soviet Union and East European countries "to explain the dangers of the Soviet Jewish exodus."

Information Minister Ibrahim Issa said Jordan should urge the United States to "announce that Israeli settlements would not be set in the occupied territories and to cut all funds to Israel if it (Israel) wanted to finance those settlements there."

Algeria Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmed Ghazali said the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel would have catastrophic impact on the Arab world.

"The massive Jewish emigration may very well mean the revival of Israel's dream of a Jewish state stretching from the Euphrates river in Syria to the Nile in Egypt," said Ghazali.

The minister disputed the Soviet Union's argument that Moscow cannot prevent Soviet Jews from emigrating as not to breach human rights.

The International Islamic Council for Dawa (call) and relief has expressed profound concern over the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

In a statement issued at the end of its seventh session held in Makkah yesterday, the council said the mass exodus encourages the racist Zionist practices in the occupied Arab territories.

The council has expressed deep regret over the Jewish emigration in the Soviet Union and said "the Soviet stand constituted a total surrender to the Zionist political blackmail."

A radical Palestinian group welcomed Moscow's suggestion that the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel be referred to the UN Security Council.

Bloodiest day of Palestinian revolt

Scores hurt as Israeli troops shoot at Gaza mourners

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 11, (Agencies): Israeli troops shot and wounded at least 63 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday, in one of the bloodiest days of an Arab revolt that has claimed nearly 850 lives, hospitals reported.

Israeli soldiers broke up a gathering of Palestinians mourning the death of an Arab youth killed last week.

They said the troops entered the home of the parents of Ayman Khalil Zakout in the Shabura neighbourhood of Rafah and ordered those there to leave.

Gaza residents said some soldiers shouted "Isma'iliya" as they fired, an apparent reference to last week's killings of nine Israeli tourists in an attack on a bus on the Isma'iliya-Cairo road in Egypt.

Egyptian officials have said the attackers were Palestinians and the driver of their getaway car was from the Rafah region.

Troops sealed off major towns in the occupied West Bank yesterday and clamped curfews on parts of Gaza as Arab residents celebrated the eighth anniversary of the outlawed Palestine Communist Party.

Communist supporters in Gaza City marched with the banned Palestinian flag until security forces dispersed them with tear-gas.

Stone-throwing demonstrators injured a paramilitary border policeman and witnesses said his colleagues severely clubbed two Palestinian youths. The city's Ahli hospital said it was treating two badly beaten teenagers.

The army spokeswoman said curfews were imposed on the city's Sabra and Zeitoun neighbourhoods, "for operational reasons."

She said the West Bank towns of Nabulus, Tulkarm and Bethlehem had been declared closed military zones, off limits to journalists and all non-residents.

"They are closed because of suspicions of possible planned unrest there," she said.

Palestinians said that at least 1,000 people marched in the Nabulus casbah (market) until troops attacked with gunfire and tear-gas. A local hospital said it treated one person for a gunshot wound.

In Ramallah, where communist support is high, residents of the town centre were confined to their homes until further notice.

Large numbers of armed police and border police patrolled the streets of Arab East Jerusalem and lined the ramparts of the walled old city.

The West Bank village of Qabatyia remained under a curfew imposed after a clash on

A shoving match broke out between the soldiers and mourners and troops opened fire when hundreds of neighbours started to intervene. Arab reports said.

They said Palestinians had gathered to offer condolences to Zakout's parents. Zakout, 18, was fatally shot in a stone-throwing clash with troops on Feb 7.

Doctors at Nasser Hospital in Rafah said that 47 people, including a 70-year-old man shot in the left thigh, arrived at the hospital after the melee.



Masked Palestinian youths carry tyres, a slingshot and a Palestinian flag on their way to a demonstration marking the eighth anniversary of the Palestine Communist Party in Jabel Mukaber, an Arab village outside Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shamir must defeat Sharon Likud showdown

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 11, (Reuters): A showdown in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rightwing Likud Party tomorrow will make or break his proposals for peace with Palestinians and shape the future of Israel's alliance with the United States.

The 74-year-old premier must defeat headline party rivals led by Ariel Sharon, leader of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, if he is to press ahead with Cairo and Washington to convene Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Washington hopes a dramatic Shamir victory, together with an influx of Soviet Jews and improving relations with the Kremlin and Eastern Europe, will give Israel confidence to negotiate its future.

Sample polls show Shamir will wipe out his challengers when the party's 3,000 central committee members meet. Supporters say his speech will portray him as Israel's unrivalled defender.

But a party victory would be hollow unless Shamir can avoid the constraints Trade Minister Sharon, as committee chairman, and his supporters want to impose on peace efforts.

Some political observers said their differences could torpedo the meeting.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said today efforts to bring peace to the Middle East were close to failure and his group might take other measures to achieve its aims.

"We are close to a dead end, but we have other options... and we hope that nobody will blame us if we take other steps," Arafat told reporters at his headquarters in Baghdad.

Friday in which troops shot dead two villagers and wounded at least seven, residents said.

UN relief workers expressed alarm over a five-day surge of bloodshed in Gaza Strip in which Israeli troops have shot dead two Palestinians and wounded more than 130.

The United Nations has repeatedly accused Israel of using excessive force in clashes with stone-throwing Palestinians in the occupied territories, and a local UN spokeswoman said the flood of casualties was overwhelming health workers.

"We would like to express our concern about the very high number of casualties over the last

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Faction fighting
PARIS, Feb 11, (Reuters): Former President Abolmoumenech Razzavi said today the Iranian government was paralysed by faction-fighting and the only hope for the country was democracy.

Surprise visit
KHARTOUM, Feb 11, (AP): Sudan's military strongman, Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, paid a surprise visit to the besieged southern capital Juba yesterday as the government started to arm the city's citizens, a newspaper said today.

Hundreds mourn
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 11, (Reuters): Hundreds of mourners flocked today to the funeral of the head of the Armenian church Yeghishabe Derderian, in Jerusalem and the Holy Land who died aged 80 on Feb 1.

Militant held
TUNIS, Feb 11, (Reuters): Tunisian police yesterday arrested a Muslim militant, Abdel Hamid Mediouni, suspected of planning a sulphuric acid attack on a policeman in western Tunisia last month, the official news agency said today.

Moscow trip
CAIRO, Feb 11, (Reuters): Senior Egyptian official Osama El-Baz left Cairo for Moscow today to prepare for President Hosni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet capital next month.

Rebels killed
CAIRO, Feb 11, (AP): Over 100 rebels have been killed in South Sudan when government forces destroyed an ambush set by rebels, Omdurman radio reported yesterday.

Pope appeals
JAVAYAN CITY, Feb 11, (Reuters): Pope John Paul II appealed today for truce in the civil war in southern Sudan to allow relief supplies to reach Juba, besieged by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Wade detained
DAKAR, Feb 11, (AP): Police blocked opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade from entering the capital and took him to an unknown destination upon his return to the West African country, witnesses said. Wade, who claims his Senegalese Democratic Party won Feb 28, 1988, elections returned from a six-month exile yesterday.

Cairo meeting
AMMAN, Feb 11, (Kuna): Former US President Jimmy Carter and ex-West German Chancellor Willy Brandt along with other international figures will participate in a planned gathering in Cairo next month to expedite peace in the Middle East.

Turkish envoy
BAGHDAD, Feb 11, (Kuna): A Turkish presidential envoy met here last night with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, during which he delivered a message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Iraqi news agency reported.

Relief plan
KHARTOUM, Feb 11, (Kuna): The Lutheran Relief Foundation has launched a two-week programme for delivery of relief to the growing numbers of displaced people who have arrived in Juba, the largest town in south Sudan and capital of equatorial region, the Sudan news agency, Suna, said.

PLO team in Manila
Two officials from the PLO arrived in the Philippines on Sunday to lay the groundwork for establishment of an embassy. PLO deputy Foreign Secretary Abdul Latif Abu-Hajj and executive secretary Sami Mujaian are scheduled to call on President Corason Aquino and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus on Monday.

Border wall
AMMAN, Feb 11, (Kuna): The Israeli army has started constructing a six-metre high wall along the border in Rafah area between Egypt and occupied Palestine, according to reports received here today. The reports said the wall is aiming at preventing the possible infiltration of resistance fighters from the Egyptian side to carry out commando attacks against Israeli targets.

Court orders arrest of mine officials in link with blast

ANKARA, Feb 11, (AP): A court in the northern city of Mersin ordered the arrest of three mine officials yesterday in connection with a mine explosion that took 67 lives, Turkish news agencies said.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency said mine director Hasan Saritope, chief engineer Cemal Tiryakioglu and safety engineer Husnu Meydan were arrested and charged with criminal negligence. If convicted, it said they face prison terms of four to 10 years.

Saritope and Tiryakioglu had been removed from their posts earlier yesterday.

Anatolia and the independent Hurriyet news agency also said soldiers and police had to restrain grieving relatives of the victims from attacking Saritope and Tiryakioglu as they were taken from the mine site to Mersin.

The crowd shouted "murderers" and threw stones at the

van taking them away, the agencies said.

Union officials and relatives of the victims have charged that Saritope was aware of methane gas leakage in the Yenicecik mine, 400 kilometres (240 miles) northeast of Ankara, but failed to evacuate the pit 316 metres (yards) underground.

Earlier, officials had said 58 miners were trapped in the mine. But they said yesterday that one more miner missing since Wednesday evening's explosion was now believed to have been trapped. The missing miners were presumed dead. The bodies of eight other miners were removed from the mine.

Two miners were injured.

Fire erupted in the mine following a powerful methane gas explosion.

A West German mine expert arrived at the mine on Saturday to help put out the fire, Anatolia reported.

Communist Party chief released

KHARTOUM, Feb 11, (Reuters): Sudan's military junta has released the head of the Communist Party from jail after holding him more than seven months, state radio reported yesterday.

Ibrahim Nugud and the leaders of other major political parties were detained and their parties banned when the junta deposed the civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi last June 30.

All the other political leaders were transferred from Khobar prison to house arrest last month and in December.

Iran marks revolution anniversary

TEHRAN, Feb 11, (Reuters): Iran wound up celebrations marking the 11th anniversary of its Islamic revolution today with a mass rally at a square where a Muslim cleric told the crowd Iran would never abandon its fight against the United States.

Dozens of colourful balloons, some carrying portraits of the late Ayatollah Khomeini and other Iranian leaders, rose above the crowd gathered under cold sunshine at the snow-covered Azadi (freedom) Square.

Two huge paintings of Khomeini and his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, were hoisted by construction cranes at the opposite ends of the square.

"That the Iranian people are still present on the scene after grappling with hardships for 11 years is a sign of the righteousness of Islam," President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told the crowd.

Rafsanjani, who has put rebuilding Iran's war-battered economy at the top of his agenda, said unity of the people based on Islam was a key element for success.

Another speaker, head of the Islamic publicity organisation Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, stressed the anti-American character of Khomeini's Islamic revolution which toppled the Shah's US-backed monarchy.

Leg amputated Granny relents

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 11, (Agencies): An elderly woman who had initially refused to have her gangrenous right leg amputated in a publicised "right-to-die" court battle thanked doctors yesterday for removing the infected limb and said she hoped the saga was over, a grandson said.

"After the operation she said 'I hope it's all over and they won't have to take off anymore,'" said Peres Trabelsi, a grandson of Tunisian-born Ruth Trabelsi, 84.

"She thanked the doctors, but she's groggy now and has a little trouble breathing so we told her not to speak," he said in a telephone interview from Poriah hospital in Tiberias.

Doctors amputated the right leg just above the knee on Friday night, after gangrene developed and spread as a complication from the hardening of the arteries and blood clotting. The surgery was performed under local anaesthesia.

Peres Trabelsi, 44, said doctors listed his grandmother in "moderate" condition, but would only be able to determine if there were no resulting complications in a couple of days.

Trabelsi, who had said she wanted "to enter the Garden of Eden on both feet," had initially refused the operation despite doctors' warnings she would probably die without it.

The case went to court last week under a law that requires it to protect people who may not be capable of making decisions for themselves.

But the government dropped the case after a geriatric specialist testified that Trabelsi was lucid and fully capable of making her own decisions.

Some of the woman's 258 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, however, continued to press the matriarch to have the surgery.

Secular civil rights activists campaigned for the right of any person to refuse medical treatment if it offended their principles.

Divided family members fought at her bedside and doctors appealed to the courts to force her to give up the diseased limb. Trabelsi remained adamant until grey-bearded chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu chartered a helicopter and flew from Jerusalem to her hospital room in northern Israel.

"She had the operation and is well, we wish her long, long life," a nurse told Reuters.

Jordan to deport illegal workers

AMMAN, Feb 11, (Reuters): Jordan, battling unemployment, will start deporting illegal foreign workers next month, Labour Minister Qassem Obaidat said today.

"After the end of this month, those working illegally and those who do not carry work permits will be forced to leave," he told reporters.

He said only 43,000 of what he estimated were 230,000 foreigners working in the country had permits.

Obaidat did not explain discrepancies in official estimates of the numbers of guest workers and unemployed Jordanians.

Last month he said there were 300,000 foreign workers and 60,000 jobless Jordanians. Prime Minister Mudar Badran this month put the numbers at 175,000 and 80,000 respectively.

Obaidat said a ministry survey to determine where the foreign workers were needed in Jordan would be completed this month.

"Work permits would then be renewed or issued according to our market needs and in cases where a Jordanian cannot be found to carry out the job."

Queens, sheikhs, presidents converge on Aswan to resurrect ancient library

ASWAN, Egypt, Feb 11, (Reuters): Queens, sheikhs, princesses and presidents converged on the Egyptian holiday resort of Aswan today to resurrect a 2,000-year-old library that was once a seat of learning in the ancient world.

More than \$150 million is needed to recreate Alexandria library near its original site in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, sacked by Julius Caesar's Roman legions in 48 BC.

The old library was not just a library — it was a university," said project director Mohamed Zahran. "We are reviving the idea of an advanced information centre."

Queen Noor of Jordan, Queen Sofia of Spain, Princess Caroline of Monaco and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates are among those gathering for the fund-raising drive.

French President Francois Mitterrand and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were due to join the talks on Monday.

Security was tight for a meeting which comes a week after gunmen attacked an Israeli tourist bus north of Cairo killing 11 people and a few days after an armed teenager in a car was shot dead after ramming the gates at Mubarak's Cairo residence.

Armed guards ringed the visitors' luxury hotel, a former royal palace built on the banks of the Nile in 1989.

The hotel has suites named after former clients including the Shah of Iran and Agatha Christie, the British detective novelist and author of Death on the Nile.

River police in motor launches patrolled the river and guards with sniffer dogs checked through rooms before guests arrived.

The Alexandria project aims to recapture some of the spirit of the ancient library which once up to 70,000 papyrus scrolls detailing what the ancient world knew of

astronomy, mathematics, philosophy and theology.

It was both a library and a centre of learning, attracting Greek scholars including Euclid, the inventor of geometry and Aristophanes who calculated the circumference of the earth.

The new library is to be built in the shape of the rising sun — a symbol of ancient Egypt — and will be hoped recapture some of Alexandria's now faded glory.

The library will have microfiches instead of papyrus scrolls and video cassettes instead of Greek teachers, to create a late 20th century equivalent of the old library.

Byrd calls for cut in US aid to biggest beneficiaries

WASHINGTON, Feb 11, (Agencies): Sen. Robert Byrd, Democrat of West Virginia, suggested on Wednesday that the biggest share of US foreign aid, which includes Israel, could be cut by as much as 20 per cent.

Byrd, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, did not mention Israel or other major recipients such as Egypt, Greece, Turkey, the Philippines and Pakistan in a Senate speech.

But the former Senate Democratic leader said cuts in aid for some countries could be "substantially larger" than the five per cent across-the-board reduction for all recipients proposed recently by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole.

"Some countries certainly the largest of our historic aid recipients, can probably take cuts substan-

tially larger than five per cent — somewhere between 10 per cent and 20 per cent would be more realistic, I would think."

A cut of 20 per cent for Israel, the largest single recipient at \$3 billion, would reduce aid by \$600 million.

"Some recipients might not take any cut at all," Byrd said. "There is one thing for certain: No foreign aid country has earned the right to our money or resources."

Byrd's brief speech continued the debate, sparked by Dole, over the future of US aid which now faces the needs of the new democracies in Eastern Europe plus the unredeemed requests of Latin American nations.

Be cool, look cool and stay cool

Like a Hurricane: anti-smoking concert

By Fathima Ahmed
ArabTimes Staff

KUWAITI Mohammad Abueljain stormed into the amateur theatre circle in 1987. Since then, he has carved a niche for himself as actor and singer, appearing in several productions staged by the ACT and Kuwait Players. This year, he has taken a brief "leave of absence" from the ACT, of which he is vice chairman, to rock with the times, and spread a

message: a puff is not worth the huff.

"Like a Hurricane," he promises is certain to make the youngsters sing along they can be "Cool ... without a puff." The concerts are due on Feb 15 and 16. Mohammad is producing the concert featuring the Seventh Sky band and a host of vocalists. A versatile performer, Mohammad is best known for his exceptional singing talent. His interest in music and theatre goes back to the time when he

was five. "I played the groom in a play, and got married, when I was five, in a school play," he chuckles. Since then, he has married four times—in real life.

His interest in drama did not dull with time. As a student of engineering, he took time off from studies in Texas, US, to study dancing, music and dabbled in the theatre.

"My mind was in singing and dancing," he says as he recalls his student days. And his interest was in acting. He joined his

college drama group and performed regularly, and sang in the college choir.

"My heaviest introduction to theatre was in Kuwait," he admits. He has appeared in successful dramas like Scrooge and An Evening of Absurdity and A Mad Woman of Chailiot, staged by ACT, and Barefoot in the Park, a play done by Kuwait Players. But it was his performance in such musicals as "Music Concert '88" and "Rock the Night" (1988) that drew audience appreciation.

A singer with a natural talent for sounds, he was drawn to the idea of putting on a musical show with a message and began working on the idea of staging Like a Hurricane. As a non-smoker, he feels a "musical anti-smoking message" might go down well with the youngsters.

With the backing of the Kuwait Society for the Prevention of Smoking, he hopes to get a flying start. More than 20 companies are supporting the ambitious two-day concert which is being prepared at a cost of over KD 12,000.

Smoking is common practice in Kuwait, and is fairly widespread among teenagers. More than 10,000 flyers are now being circulated to draw the younger crowd so that the "Be Cool" message can be put across.

"I have taken up a project of this magnitude because I want to tell kids that we can be cool and look cool without a puff," he said. Will he succeed? "Maybe," he says. His "biggest fear" is what "big smoking companies might do to little guys like us," he says.

For the moment, the Seventh Sky Band members and Mohammad have set aside jitters and are settling down at rehearsals. "We are concentrating on the music," he said. This ranges from rock and pop to heavy metal.

Well known vocalists Ammar Al Binni, Sako Sarkisian, Mur-

taza, Reza Shahim and Sandy Kilada, and Mohammad of course, are going to sing a selection of songs ranging from Prince's "Peace, Your the Voice" to Madonna, Deaf Leopard, Queen, Iron Maiden, Brian Adams and White Snake.

The musical director of "Like a Hurricane" is Murtaza Shahim, the leader of the Seventh Sky Band. Murtaza is fairly well-known among music buffs in Kuwait. The other band members are Floyd, Murtaza, Reza, Farid, Khaled, Sako and Sandy.

Before Mohammad came on the amateur theatre scene, it revolved around the expatriate community. Since he joined in 1987, his presence has drawn out the Arab audience. He is banking on both expatriates and Arabs to succeed in his current project. He is also concerned about the absence of a true theatrical ambience.

"There is lack of support for amateur theatre here; the biggest problem is the venue. We can produce a show, but we are always looking for a venue," he says. He says most venues are unsuitable due to "poor acoustics" in a majority of halls.

Of his association with the theatre groups, he says: "There is a certain mystique in making friends, and then losing them when the curtain falls." And being adept at improvisation, he will remain a volunteer performer. He vows never to give up the theatre "for all the money in the world."

"Oh! It's Hard to be Humble" is his favourite Country "Western" song, crooning which he walked into the theatre scene a couple of years ago. And with Like a Hurricane, he hopes to create a hubbub of music.

Like a Hurricane concerts will start at 8 pm on Feb 15 and 16 at the Andalus Cinema. Tickets, priced KD 3, 4, 5, 6, are available. For reservations, call 573-0265, 574-8476.



Standing: (L—R) Floyd, Mohammad, Murtaza, Reza and Farid; seated: Khaled, Sako and Sandy.



Dinner party for American delegation

The American Foreign Relations Committee had a dinner party last Tuesday upon an invitation from the committee president David Rockdeller, the chairman of the American based Chase Manhattan Bank. The dinner party was held at Kuwait International Hotel.

A large number of American personalities like Richard Merly from the Foreign Relations Committee, and the former American president delegate in the Middle East also the American Ambassador in Kuwait and his wife attended the dinner party. A number of Kuwaiti personalities also attended the evening.

The committee members' visit to Kuwait is aimed at improving relations between both countries in all fields.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Hobby Centre
FELT/CRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah
14 Feb. Architecture of Mamluk Jerusalem exhibition, opening 4.30 pm co-organized by the British Council Wed 14 February - Wed 21 February. This is a specially designed photographic exhibition which is accompanied by wall text and is on display for only a week. Dr Bourgoyne who will give a lecture in Arabic and in English is author of the architectural catalogue which accompanies the exhibition.

Valentine's Day
14 Feb. Valentine's Day Special dinner in Messilah Beach Hotel from 8-12 pm. Live entertainment, complimentary bottle of Bulmagne, a red rose for each lady and free raffle entries. Book your table in advance. Call 5624111.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Valentine's Party
VALENTINE'S Party: Come join the fun. Feb 15 dinner buffet. Top Ranks band, door prizes, Cupid's arrow awaiting! For more information call Nina on 5339623 or Kathy on 5233992 (between 6 and 8 pm).

ACT
ACT's production of Thornton Wilder's comedy "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be presented on February 27, 28 and March 1 at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets can be reserved by calling 5725071 or 5731782.

Like a Hurricane
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/543219.

Kuwait Welsh Society
ST. DAVID'S Day buffet dance Thursday 1st March 1990. At Messilah Beach Hotel. For ticket reservations & more information ring 3713467, 312384, 5625316.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmad, present the Kuwait Folk Group in concert on 14th and 15th February, at 8 pm both nights. Tickets can be ordered by phoning 3919759.

Videos of the recent very successful pantomime Sinbad the Sailor, can be picked up from the theatre on Sunday 4th February from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Konkani drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sousarant Astana Dhat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaitees) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Merino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Indian Arts Circle

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration forms with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

One Act Play Rehearsals

Kuwait Players are holding auditions for a selection of one act plays to be staged in April. If you're interested in directing, acting or assisting backstage, do come along to the auditions at 7.30 pm on Monday Feb 12th or Tuesday Feb 13th. Please phone 5615357 for details of venue.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making - For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

Daniella Fastelahn
Daniella celebrates "Fastelahn" for Danes at Gazelle Club on Friday, Feb 16, at 1 pm. For reservations please call Marianne - Tel: 3710215 ext 29 or Winnie - Tel: 5733382 before Feb 13.

Bazaar
KHALIFA School will be holding a bazaar selling home produce at 9 to 12 am on Thursday 15. For further information 5712544.

Carnival Dinner Nite

Carnival dinner nite by the Entertainers will be held at the SAS Hotel (The Tent) with music provided by Top Ranks & Perfect Strangers, on 22nd Feb, 1990 from 20.30 hours onwards. Highlights of the evening: Parade by K-Momo, Crowning of Carnival Queen, Ramba Samba dance competition. Group prizes, and many other surprises. For further details please contact: The Organisers, Chopsticks Chinese takeaway. Tel: 5617243.

British Council

Children's film: Wednesday, 14 Feb. at 6.00 pm; Thursday 15 Feb. at 10.30 am. Five Go To Demon's Rock: The Famous Five go treasure hunting after hearing about a legend of hidden gold in the Wrecker's Cave near Demon's Rock. Join them in their exciting adventure in their search for an old gold coin. 44 min. Admission is free but please book seats by calling Tel: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances - the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KD1.000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

British Council

STUDYING, COMPUTING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN BRITAIN

Whether you want a short course, a 2-year diploma, a BSc, or a PhD - we have the information you need. Come and visit the Education Office on Monday, 12 February or Tuesday, 13 February and access our computerised database! Our staff will be there to assist you and help find a course to suit you.

Singapore festival

SAS Kuwait Hotel will feature Singapore festival on 20th and 21st February at The Tent. The oriental extravaganza will present lion dancers, Chinese dancers, finger painter plus elaborate buffet of popular Singaporean recipes prepared by Singaporean chefs. First of its kind in Kuwait, the show was put up in co-ordination with Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and Singapore Airlines and aims to foster closer relations between the two countries. Tickets available at SAS hotel. For reservations, please call 5657000 ext 401 or 403.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SPORTS

Steps Ballet

Steps Ballet School thanks the organisers of the Russian Ballet in Cinema Andalus on Feb 2nd and 3rd. We were all very happy to be able to see them perform. It meant a great deal to our students who have never before seen real ballet performed in Kuwait. We hope that it will inspire children who are learning ballet here in Kuwait. Steps Ballet School is open for registration for girls to learn ballet or jazz. Please contact the Kuwait English School afternoons only Sat to Wed 5655216/8 ext 55. Mornings only 9-12 noon 5386481.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

7-a-side football

VARCA Sporting Centre will organise its 7th annual one day 7-a-side football festival on February 25 at Sour Grounds to mark the Kuwait National Day. The draw will be held on Friday, February 23 at 10 am. For further details and entry forms please contact VSC members or Tel. 5331940 or 2410461 and 4765070.

Filipino darts

ALL Filipino darts enthusiasts are again invited for another meeting to be held on Thursday at 6.00 pm, 15 February 1990, at Mabuhay Restaurant to finalise the organisation of a darts tournament. 301 and Killers shall play a Killers game. Last meeting was attended by 21 participants from Alghani Industries, Mabuhay Restaurant, RIC and SAS Hotel. Mabuhay Restaurant is sponsoring the tournament. For more information contact William Baggis on 4843988 ext 2632.

NBK/MBH Invitation Tennis Tournament

Under the patronage of Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah Governor of Kuwait City. Invitation tennis tournament on Friday 16.2.90 organised by Messilah Beach Hotel in co-operation with National Bank of Kuwait. Doubles and mixed double. Many wonderful prizes to be won. Free refreshments and snacks throughout the day. For more details call MBH on 5624111 ext 739, 751.

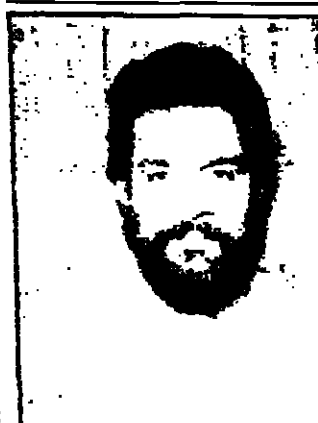
Coaching classes

COACHING classes for new recruits, who desire to qualify as football referees, conducted by the Indian Football Referees' Association, Kuwait (IFRA), will commence from Friday, February 23, 1990. Interested candidates may contact D'Souza, Tel: 2402631-2; or Anthony Fernandes, Tel: 2445729/2431674 or any members of the committee at the Sour Ground in person for any further information.

Qualified members of any Indian states' referees' associations and/or of Asian/European referees associations are welcome to join the association as members.

Tivim Centre

TIVIM Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers - 2441860 Casimiro.



Yesudas: the gift of the century

THE most famous Indian playback singer Dr Padmasree Yesudas is coming, with the famous South Indian playback singers, to Kuwait in the last week of April next.

Yesudas, the greatest gift of this century in Indian music world has captivated millions of music lovers, around the world. He is the only singer in India who contributed his melodious voice for almost all Indian languages. He was a disciple of the famous late Chembai Vidyananatha Bhagavathar, a legend in Carnatic music. Few years back Yesudas received the most prestigious national honorarium by

the central government of India. Yesudas has been contributing to music for more than 28 years. He has sung more than 30,000 songs besides his classical numbers. Almost every year he has been winning regional and national awards. Recently he requested the Indian government that he may not be considered for any awards in future. His father, late Augustine Joseph was also a very famous figure in the Malayalam music and drama field. Now his son Vijay Yesudas is also famed as a playback singer in Malayalam film fields. Recently Tharangani recording studio

released a cassette of Vijay with Yesudas and Sujatha.

Sujatha who performed in Kuwait years back with Yesudas is accompanying him to Kuwait. She is a versatile playback singer in South Indian film field. "Tharangani Records" has released her beautiful rendering many a time through their cassette with Padmasree Yesudas.

The programme will be sponsored by National and co-sponsored by Rothmans, Air Lanka and Usha Jewellery.

CINEMA

Al-Andalus
Batman
Salimiyah
Hill Booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Al Firdous
Jeane Ke Arzoo
Fahsheel
Cold Steel
Al Jahra
C.O.D.
Granada
Time Burst
Sulabikhat
Ninja Hunt
Jeeb
Aadil
Ahmadi Drive-in
Shock Troop

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Cairo Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Ajeel Pharmacy
Al Mubarakia
Hawati and Nugra
Al Haidha Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Salimiyah and Rumeithiya
Qurtuba Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Abu Hulaifa Pharmacy
Abu Hulaifa, Coast Road
Jeeb Al Shuyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Nour Pharmacy
Matafi Street

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.10 am
Zohr 12.02 pm
Asr 3.11 pm
Maghreb 5.34 pm
Isha 6.53 pm

Lawrence

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Freedom to give powerful impetus to economy

Mandela's release likely to give new fillip to markets

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 11. (Reuters) Nelson Mandela's release could help ease punitive anti-apartheid sanctions by Western nations and halt the stream of foreign disinvestment from South Africa, financial analysts and business leaders said.

The black nationalist's freedom today after 27 years in South African prisons was also likely to have a big impact on Monday.

Stockbrokers and bankers predicted that his release would boost the value of the financial rand investment currency and fuel a boom in mining and industrial shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange as foreign and

local buyers rush to register their approval of the political changes sweeping South Africa.

"Mr Mandela's return to public life creates opportunities for all parties to engage in reasoned debate about how to structure democratic politics in a future South Africa," said Gavin Rely, chairman of Anglo American Corp of South Africa Ltd, the country's biggest company.

Financial analysts said this would give powerful impetus to the economy, battered by a flight of foreign capital, high inflation, surging unemployment and slow growth in the past five years. Mandela's release is a fantastic gesture

and will greatly relieve pressure for further sanctions by the United States, Western Europe and Japan," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist of mining house Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company Ltd.

"It might even give (US) President George Bush an argument to reduce the sanctions already in place."

Other business leaders said they saw Mandela's release as a vital step towards ending the drift into a siege economy.

"The market has anticipated it, but it will be received very positively," said stockbroker William Bowler.

"This will reinforce positive investor sentiment and spur further foreign and local interest in our shares," he added.

The analysts said the financial rand, a restricted currency used by foreigners to invest in South Africa, was likely to rise sharply on Monday from Friday's close of 3.34 to the dollar.

The financial rand, which trades at a discount to the commercial rand, valued on Friday at 2.54 to the dollar, is widely seen as a barometer of South Africa's economic health.

"(Mandela's release) is the most important signal so far ... that the government is keen to open the doors

to the international community and get negotiations going with black leaders," said Wayne Mitchell, executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce representing about 120 US companies in South Africa.

"It could help stop disinvestment by ending double taxation on US companies operating here and possibly lead to the lifting of other sanctions such as the prohibition on landing rights for South African Airways," he added.

Mandela's freedom could also persuade international bankers to ease a clamp of loans to South Africa, cut off

in 1985 at the height of black revolt against white rule.

During Mandela's imprisonment the economy, once the powerhouse of sub-Saharan Africa, became more sophisticated but more isolated.

Trade with the United States, once Pretoria's biggest trading partner, plummeted.

Economic growth of four per cent during the 1970s has slowed to under two per cent in the 1980s.

More than half the 300-odd US companies operating in South Africa, including most of the big-name multinationals — Ford, General Motors, Coca-Cola, IBM — have left the coun-

try since 1985. One in five British companies has disinvested.

Manufacturing industry has developed very slowly and South Africa remains heavily dependent on a single commodity, gold, for about 30 per cent of total exports.

The cost of enforcing apartheid and funding for nominally independent black "homelands" has ensured that government spending now accounts for 37 per cent of gross domestic product.

But some analysts cautioned against over-optimism, saying Mandela's release should not be seen as a panacea for the country's economic problems.

\$530 billion needed for economic miracle

BONN, Feb 11. (UPI) — Investments totalling \$530 billion will have to be pumped into East Germany over the next five years if the country is to achieve the same economic standards as West Germany, a weekly magazine said yesterday, quoting from an economic study.

The West German magazine, Stern said about 4,000 companies would need to actively participate in the economic rehabilitation exercise.

Coming from an investment study it commissioned from a senior consultant in Düsseldorf, Stern said that investments totalling \$26 billion (Deutschmark \$309 billion) will be needed in the industrial sector alone.

It said a total of more than 900 billion Deutschmark (\$530 billion) would have to be invested in the East German economy, to bring it up to West German standards.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said Wednesday he was confident that "a German-German economic miracle, in both German states or in a unified state, is possible."

Stern said the consultant, Axel Boje, shared widespread optimism that in spite of East Germany's current economic crisis, the money would be well invested.

Boje warned that "if we keep on hesitating, the Japanese will be there before us."

The Deutsche bank said in a report distributed Thursday that the East German infrastructure — although outdated — was still functioning much better.

Cosmonauts launched in first profit venture

MOSCOW, Feb 11. (AP) — Two cosmonauts rocketed into orbit today on a mission designed to turn a profit of more than \$40 million, a first in the 32-year history of the Soviet space programme.

Carried by a Soyuz TM-9 capsule, flight commander Anatoly Solovoy and engineer Alexander Balaizin soared into cloud-streaked skies over the Baikonur space complex in Soviet Kazakhstan at 9.16 am Moscow time (0616 GMT).

The launch of the three-stage rocket, shown live on Soviet television, was also witnessed by four US astronauts flown to the space centre in Central Asia for the event.

The American guests included Dan Brandenstein, who commanded the 11-day flight of the space shuttle Columbia in January. Ron Graber, Paul Weitz and Jerry Ross.

Solovoy and Balaizin were scheduled to dock later with the space station Mir and to relieve two fellow Soviet spacemen now spending their sixth month in orbit. The new cosmonauts are to spend six months in space.

All systems were reported normal by Soviet television eight minutes after the Soyuz capsule and booster rocket lifted off atop a column of orange-white flames.

Crude prices ride for a fall

Prospects of excess Opec supply

LONDON, Feb 1. (Reuters) — World petroleum prices are poised to fall because of prospects of excess Opec crude oil supply, traders say.

They do not expect a fullscale rout like the drop to \$10 per barrel in the glut of 1986 and add that a rebound later in the year is likely.

"We have been on the brink for some time. We may drop by a few dollars but then the buyers are likely to come back in," said an official at one major Western oil company.

North Sea Brent blend crude oil, a world benchmark, was around \$19.75 per barrel for prompt delivery at the end of

trading last week.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US marker, was up close to \$22, reflecting its high yield in gasoline and its favoured status among US refiners.

European traders say WTI is often an unreliable bellweather of world trends.

Arctic cold in the United States late December and early in January, however, caused a jump in petroleum prices everywhere as the nation which burns a quarter of all world oil found itself short of ready supplies of heating fuel.

Traders and analysts now assume the worst of the winter to

be over and are looking at oil supply ahead of the April-June quarter of the year, the period of seasonal weak demand between winter and the peak summer holiday motoring season.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), crude output by Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ran at 23.3 million barrels per day (bpd) in January.

Even at an official Opec target of 22 million during the April-June period, says London-based Nomura Research Institute, there would still be a substantial flow into stocks "which could

take prices towards the mid-tens levels for Brent."

Output cuts by Saudi Arabia and producers would be likely to have a psychological impact on the market and help put a floor under prices.

So might concern over declining exports from the Soviet Union which Western industry sources say may put 400,000 to 500,000 barrels daily of unforeseen sales in Opec's way.

Meanwhile the 13 Opec oil ministers plan talks in Vienna on March 15 to review the market.

Nomura still sees Brent crude oil averaging 18.5 per barrel for the whole of 1990, a shade up from 18.2 for 1989.

UK equities flat ahead of economic reports

LONDON, Feb 11. (UPI) — Equities on the London International Stock Exchange ended the week on a dull note, posting its fourth setback in five trading sessions as investors cautiously await next week's profit reports and government economic figures.

The Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index closed at 2313.6 points, down 17.4 points on the day and 41.5 points lower on the week. The Financial Times 30 index stood at 1830.7 points, down 14.6 points on the session and 35.7 points lower since the previous Friday.

Thursday's optimism was dispelled early Friday with dealers' concern that the narrowing interest rate differentials between Germany and the UK would lead to German reunification. The disappointing result of applications for the United States long-bond auction also dampened sentiment.

Cable and Wireless lost 8p to 550p in the absence of news about the China-Hong Kong talks, which had boosted share prices earlier in the week.

Royal Bank of Scotland gained in early trading on rumours of stake-building by Spain's Banco de Santander, but fell on the news that Scottish shares had bought a 5 per cent share.

On Monday, the properties sector climbed on an otherwise dull market. The news that P and O launched a 600p per share cash bid for Laing Properties sent Laing shares soaring. Laing closed 89p higher at 633p while P and O lost 14p to end at 606p.

Euro Disney shares bucked the slightly downward trend, jumping 40p to 113p with European investment support.

Discouraged by Tuesday's lower opening on Wall Street, share prices fell in London in this trading. Investors were cautious ahead of news of the US Treasury quarterly refunding.

Euro Disney shares jumped again, adding 45p to 118p. Cable and Wireless was up 7p to 544p in anticipation that the Chinese will take a stake in its Hong Kong subsidiary.

Share prices slid lower Wednesday with concern over developments in Russia and Eastern Europe and Thursday's United States bond auction.

Continued severe weather and bad storms depressed the insurance sector. General Accident shares fell 24p to 1139p.

Eurotunnel shares lost 17p to 628p following a disappointing progress report.

Hambros shares rose 16p to reach 319p on reports that Baltica was holding talks about it.

Share prices rose Thursday as the market followed Wall Street's favourable response to the first two bond auctions.

British Telecom shares were up 7p to reach 305p after better-than-expected third-quarter results while Cable and Wireless shares rose 15p to 558p with the prospect of a Chinese government stake in its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary.

Bass shares gained 7p to 1000p with completion of its deal for Holiday Inn.

The dollar ended the week in Europe firmer against the mark as concern about the cost of a possible German monetary union weakened the West German currency.

Earlier this week the mark surged to two-year highs after Bonn called for talks on uniting the West and East German currencies in a bid to rescue East Germany's shattered economy.

But enthusiasm for the mark has waned since then as investors consider the possible negative impact of monetary union, such as rising West German inflation and interest rates.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rate higher against dollar

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded higher against the US dollar ending the week at 290.29 fils compared with its week before last closing of 290.43 fils. The KD was lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 490.79 fils compared with its week before last closing of 487.05 fils. The KD was lower against the DM ending the week at 174.17 fils compared with its week before last closing of 173.13 fils. The KD was also lower against the SFR ending the week at 194.46 fils compared with its week before last closing of 194.14 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.27 fils compared with its week before last closing of 432.19 fils. The KD continued to trade higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short term interbank offer rates traded higher within a relatively wide range over the week. One-month interbank rates traded over the week at 8.62 per cent-8.75 per cent range compared with 8.56 per cent-8.75 per cent range the week before last. Three-months interbank rates also traded around 8.62 per cent-8.75 per cent compared with 8.62 per cent-8.68 per cent rate for the week before last. Rates for longer periods also traded higher around 8.68 per cent-8.75 per cent range for both 6 and 12 months.

As for Treasury Bills, the CBK announced two new T-bills, the first is 3-month-Bill issue No. (94) of KD 130 million, with effective and maturity dates of Feb 14 and May 16 1990, respectively. The second issue is 6-months T-Bill issue No. (95), of KD 100 million effective and maturity dates of Feb 14 and August 15, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street share prices moved higher during last week, as improved sentiment and positive results from the Treasury refunding, combined with short covering to boost stock prices. Buoyancy in technology issues helped move the market higher. Concerns that the narrowing interest rate differentials between Japan and the US would discourage Japanese participation in the Treasury's \$30 billion quarterly refunding had kept financial markets on edge for weeks. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2623 and closed higher at 2648, recording a gain of 45 points over the previous week's closing at 2603.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange eased last week, with the London market largely featureless all week with no major UK economic figures and little in the way of corporate news. Also weakness in the bond markets both in the UK and elsewhere and concern over the possibility of higher W. German inflation rates deterred investors. The FTSE-100 opened the week at 2348 and closed lower at 2312, recording a loss of 40 points over the previous week's closing at 2352.

US dollar

The US dollar traded narrowly mixed for most part of the week due to lack of any major speculation over the currency, while the release of US January Producers Price Index (PPI) had very little impact on the dollar.

The US PPI rose in Jan 1.8 per cent against a revised rate of 0.6 per cent in December of last year, while market expectations for the PPI was around 1.1 per cent. A record jump in energy costs helped to push the US PPI. In January, Energy prices climbed 13.6 per cent the largest monthly increase since December of 1974. Food prices, the other major component in the wholesale index, rose 2.1 per cent in January after increasing by 0.6 per cent in December. After subtracting the volatile food and energy figures, the so-called core rate of wholesale inflation for finished goods showed a relatively moderate 0.1 per cent rise in January compared with a gain of 0.5 per cent in December. The PPI measures the average price US producers pay for commodities and equipment at all stages of production and is an indication of future prices at a retail level.

Although higher food and energy prices hurt consumers, they are excluded from calculations made by the Federal Reserve bank as it measures inflation and decides the potential impact of its monetary policy on prices. The central bank has been attempting to curb inflationary pressures, resisting public urging by Bush administration officials to stimulate a sluggish economy by cutting interest rates.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.7000/10 and closed lower at \$1.6960/70, but higher compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6840/50. High UK interest rates and nervousness about the political situation in Central and Eastern Europe provided support for the pound earlier in the week, before trending lower later with little in terms of fresh factors to inspire trading.

The latest Bank of England report's main theme, that UK monetary and fiscal policy must remain firm to counter inflationary pressures, merely reiterated what financial markets already knew. However, sterling weakness could undermine its efforts to counter inflationary pressures and the threat could come from rising domestic wage settlements or upward pressure from higher overseas interest rates.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 144.65/75 yen and closed the week higher at 144.70/80 yen compared to its week before last closing at 145.53/65 yen. The yen was partly supported by recent mounting speculation over the possibility of an interest rate rise.

A consumer confidence survey by the Japanese government's economic planning indicates consumer spending remains firm because of expectations of higher income. Consumers generally are optimistic that Japan's employment situation will improve further in 1990 supported by good economic performance. Furthermore, a prominent Japanese bank study predicted that Japan's current economic boom which started in November 1986, is likely to continue for the next three years and become the longest period of economic expansion in the nation's post-war history. These factors are expected to support the boom-strong domestic demand based on personal spending, corporate capital spending and little chance of inflation or drastically tightened monetary policy.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6595/05 marks and closed the week higher at 1.6680/90 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6620/30 marks. The lack of any serious confrontation of Gorbachev at the Soviet Communist Party meeting gave traders more confidence in the German Mark thus helping the mark to continue to be well bid against major currencies.

The mark is expected to remain strong despite any negative side effects over the monetary union between East and West Germany would bring. The W. German cabinet had already agreed to support immediate talks with E. Germany on currency union, contingent on E. Germany's willingness to adopt swift economic reforms. The mark has advanced steadily since last year on the belief that W. Germany would be first to gain from economic reforms in E. Germany.

French franc

The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.6390/20 FFR and closed lower at 5.6705/15 FFR, but higher compared to its week before last closing at 5.7135/65 FFR. French M-2 money supply grew 4.3 per cent in 1989, leaving 1989 growth at the bottom end of the official target range of 4 per cent to 6 per cent. M2 fell 0.5 per cent in December, compared with a fall of 0.2 per cent in November.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices after moving higher earlier in the week against a background of political uncertainty in South Africa and the Soviet Union, moved lower later in the week as gold had been expected to rise in the event of the US dollar weakening after the release of the higher-than-expected 1.8 per cent rise of US producer prices. However, the dollar ignored the news which prompted selling on Comex and saw prices drift lower. Nevertheless, underlying bullish sentiment remains intact.

Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$422.75/423.25 and closed lower at \$415.50/416, recording a loss of \$1.50 over the previous week's closing at \$417/417.50.

Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.36/5.38 and closed lower at \$5.26/5.28, recording a loss of \$2 over the previous week's closing at \$5.28/5.30.

Platinum prices opened the week at \$513/514 and closed lower at \$507/508, recording a loss of \$3 over the previous week's closing at \$510/511.

Excessive exploitation blamed

Romanian gas output dips

BUCHAREST, Feb 11. (Reuters) — Romanian natural gas output fell almost 16 per cent in 1989 compared to recent years due mainly to intensive exploitation of reserves, a government minister was quoted on Thursday as saying.

Economics Minister Victor Stanculescu told the daily Adevarul that production was down to 32 billion cubic metres last year against an average of 38 billion cubic metres between 1986 and 1988.

He blamed excessive exploitation on the all-out export drive launched by the late dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to wipe out the country's \$10 billion foreign debt.

Output was also suffering this year. "Natural gas production in January was 2.78 billion cubic metres compared to 3.28 billion cubic metres in January, 1989," Stanculescu said.

He said Romania's industry failed to meet its

targets in January with production at only 98 per cent of the plan figure.

Stanculescu said the country's provisional government which has ruled since last December's revolution toppled Ceausescu, had already taken steps towards decentralising the previously rigidly planned economy.

"We have lowered the number of centrally set plan indicators to 14 from the previous 100 and are now keeping track of some 400 products compared to the 1,800 products which had been a part of the previous central plan," he said.

He added the former regime's central economic plan for 1990 had represented a stack of files four metres (yards) high.

This year Romania plans to cut back exports of consumer goods in order to increase the standard of living.



KHC welcomes Al Ghabra

Kuwait Hotels Company welcomed Youssef Al Ghabra who recently joined the company as a Public Relations Manager. Al Ghabra worked for the past 10 years as Public Relations Manager for the leading first class hotels in Kuwait. Properties managed by Kuwait Hotels Company are Kuwait International Hotel, Messilah Beach Hotel, Khiran Resort, Airport Hotel, Dubayyah Resort and the Safat Catering Services Co. Also managed by KHC are the Safir Hotels International — Egypt properties namely, Safir Zamalek Suites Hotel and Safir Hotel — Cairo. Pictured above (left to right) are Mohamed A. Najia — Vice President Operations, welcoming Youssef Al Ghabra and Peter Janssen — Corporate Director-Sales & Marketing.

Short-dated KD deposit market eases

KUWAIT, Feb 11. (Reuters) — Kuwait's dinar deposits market was quiet today and short dates eased, dealers said.

Overnight eased to 8-7/16 1/4 per cent from Saturday's 8-5/8 3/8 while tomorrow-next, spot-next and one week were little changed at 8-9/16 7/16.

"There were no major deals. Everyone is taking a wait and see policy until the Central Bank announces its T-bill issue on Tuesday," one dealer said.

One and three months were unchanged at 8-11/16 7/16 per cent, the same rate seen for six months and one year.

The Central Bank also left its dinar exchange rate unchanged at 0.28998/08 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits were steady in a typically dull market, with most offshore operators absent due to the European weekend.

One-month was indicated unchanged at 7-11/16, 9/16 per cent, three-months at 8-1/16, 7-15/16, and six-months at 8-3/16, 1/16.

China, Taiwan trade growing

BEIJING, Feb 11. (UPI) — Indirect trade between China and Taiwan climbed by \$1 billion to a total of \$3.7 billion last year, Chinese trade officials said yesterday.

Trade between the nationalist Chinese-ruled island and the communist Mainland has boomed in recent years as both sides have encouraged expanded economic relations. But nearly all the trade is indirect, with most conducted through Hong Kong.

Oil industry has resources to pioneer environmental solutions

NEW YORK, Feb 11. (Opecna): The international oil industry with its abundant resources and vast experience is in a favourable position to create standards and products that are environmentally acceptable.

According to Opec secretary general Dr Subroto, society will expect more of the oil industry over the next decade.

In a speech delivered to the global commission forum on Friday, he stresses that society will also expect the industry to formulate and implement its activities "in the full knowledge that in everything it does, account must be taken of the environment."

He says: "Appropriate

environmental considerations will have to be built into the industry's investment planning and decisions, into its operations and into its accountability to its employees, its customers, its shareholders and the public at large."

Subroto states that the ministry is in a favourable position to address the problems, possessing huge technical, managerial and financial resources, vast experience in operating in all regions of the world and extensive influence both in its own sector and in government and banking circles.

Oil industry environmental problems, he affirms, will be common in many respects in dif-



Subroto

ferent parts of the world. Solutions to these problems were exportable, while technology transfer relevant to dealing with their effects would occur through existing channels.

"Such technology transfer will be vital for tackling the global problems of ozone depletion and global warming. A regime of international co-operation involving governments, industry and many other bodies and institutions will be needed to come even close to the results currently seen as being required," he says.

The secretary general notes that environmental degradation in the Third World, including Opec member countries, is advancing steadily.

Figures released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) show that some five to seven million hectares of arable land are lost

annually, while an additional 11 million hectares of tropical forest are being laid waste.

At the same time, the world's population was predicted to rise to six billion by the end of the decade with 90 per cent of this growth occurring in developing countries.

Subroto says it will be necessary to deal with the difficulties of developing countries — which have poverty as their root cause — because there is a direct link between the environment issue and the development problem.

Most developing countries, he maintains, are worse off now than at the beginning of the last decade. This was "the real root of the problem — the ever-widen-

ing gap between developed and developing countries."

He declares: "On the one hand, the industrialised nations of the North want to regulate development for environmental reasons. On the other, the peoples of the Third World naturally want to improve their conditions by selling their natural resources — thereby polluting the environment."

"This philosophy calls for an energy system that does not seek at all costs to reduce dependence on oil, replacing that source of energy with high-cost alternatives ... and which fosters competition between oil, natural gas, coal, nuclear power and renewables," he notes.



Helmut Kohl

E. Europe looms large over EEC talks

BRUSSELS, Feb 11, (Reuters): The rapid changes in Eastern Europe, especially surprise proposals for German monetary union, are expected to dominate the first meeting of European Economic Community finance ministers this year, EEC sources said.

German monetary union is not formally on the agenda of Monday's one-day meeting in Brussels, but West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel is expected to report on Bonn's offer last week to open talks with East Germany on the subject.

As late as last Friday, German officials were saying Waigel would not attend the EEC meeting, preferring to remain in Bonn for the visit of East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow next week. But he decided to come in order to calm community partners who are worried about a headlong rush to German monetary union.

The finance ministers will also discuss progress of negotiations in Paris to establish a development bank for Eastern Europe, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and they may give a tentative go-ahead to a big medium-term loan to Hungary backed by Brussels.

But it is the sudden proposal for talks on monetary union between East and West Germany which is likely to be the hot topic at the 12-member community's informal lunch on Monday.

While West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has assured Brussels that German monetary union would not deflect Bonn's attention from the wider goal of EEC Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), it raises a host of questions about EMU and the role of the mark as the anchor of the EEC's exchange rate system.

Industrialists to meet in Spain

NICOSIA, Feb 11, (Reuters): Some 450 industrialists from the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) and the European Economic Community (EEC) will meet in Spain on Feb 19 in an attempt to increase economic co-operation.

Delegates to the four-day conference at Granada will discuss the oil and gas industry, petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, finance and banking, said GCC assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, Abdullah Al Quweiz, in a statement to Reuters in Cyprus.

Under an agreement last December in Brussels, the EEC is due to scrap all customs duties on Gulf imports except on designated "sensitive" products which include many types of petrochemicals.

Japan to maintain strong growth without stimulating inflation

TOKYO, Feb 11: The governor of Japan's central bank called for close co-operation among the major industrial nations in correcting international trade imbalances and stabilising currency markets.

Yasushi Mieno, who recently replaced Santoshi Sumita as governor of the Bank of Japan, largely echoed his predecessor's positions in his first news conference as central bank chief, apparently confirming earlier expectations that the switch would have little impact on Japan's monetary policy.

Mieno said Japan's top priority for international monetary affairs is to conduct monetary policy in co-ordination with other Western and Asian nations to resolve external imbalances among major trading nations.

In a remark that appeared to indicate the central bank was unlikely to act soon again on the interest rate front, he said the Bank of Japan would continue to monitor the effects of its most recent hike in the official discount rate.

To ward off inflation due to a weaker yen in international exchange markets, central bankers in Oct raised the fee they charge for borrowing by commercial banks 0.5 percentage

points of 3.75 per cent. It raised the discount rate 0.75 percentage points on May 31.

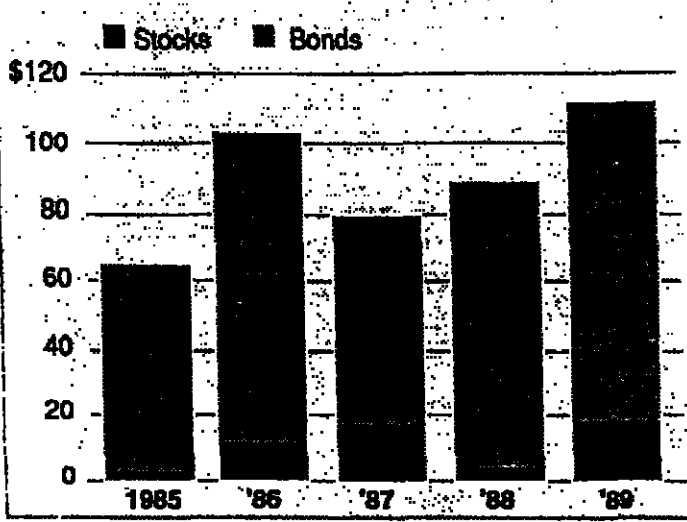
Mieno refused to specify an exchange level he would consider appropriate for the yen, which has weakened against the US dollar in recent weeks despite repeated interventions by the central bank, which has been selling dollars to stave off the need for a further increase in interest rates.

Mieno stressed the importance of maintaining Japan's strong economic growth rate without stimulating inflation and noted that although Japan's inflation indicators have been stable lately, rising import costs have been generating upward pressure on prices.

The Bank of Japan's monetary policy in 1989 was characterised by the official discount rate hikes made to stabilise prices while smoothly expanding central bank credit. The succession of discount rate hikes implemented over the past months was thought to be necessary because the price environment deteriorated both at home and abroad: at home with the supply and demand situation for products and labour tightening as business continuously expanded and abroad with the yen trending weak. The effects of the

Japan Boosts Stock and Bond Investments Abroad

Net purchases in billions of dollars



Sources: Reuters, Bank of Japan

discount rate hikes have been gradually becoming apparent since the start of the fourth quarter. Wholesale prices have started to slow down in growth and a further appreciation of the dollar vis-a-vis the yen has been averted. In and after the third quarter of the year, the central bank further strengthened its "window

guidance" by restraining lending by financial institutions to below the previous year's level and by reinforcing the surveillance of loans for real estate purchases.

The amount of credit extended by the Bank of Japan has been adjusted following the trend of high-powered money (consisting of the cash issued to the market

and the deposits of financial institutions with the Bank of Japan), with sufficient credit extended to meet a robust private-sector demand for funds. To put this another way, the ratio of high-powered money to nominal GNP has been at levels far above its long-term trend.

Even in comparison with a year earlier, high-powered money increased by 9.9 per cent as of the end of November 1989. To respond to the surging demand for cash accompanying the business boom, the Bank of Japan has promoted credit expansion while at the same time promoting credit stability by taking such measures as expanding the scale of government bond buyout operations.

In the months ahead, the Bank of Japan, while keeping an eye on price movements, is expected to work for credit stability in terms of both quality and quantity. Toward the middle of 1990, the yen also is expected to stabilise on the strong side vis-a-vis the dollar because of gradual credit relaxation measures in the United States.

Upward pressure on prices due to rising costs of raw materials imports will decrease. Accordingly, the Bank of Japan will allow interest rates to ease down

naturally. The CD rate, in anticipation of the change in the central bank's stance will come down gradually, reaching the low 6 per cent range by mid-year. Partly because of a favourable supply-demand situation, the yields on government bonds will at times hit the 4 per cent range. After the middle of the year, however, strong domestic economic activity led by personal consumption is expected to slightly increase upward pressure on prices and so interest rates will rise toward the year-end.

Japan's trade surplus will continue to shrink in fiscal 1990, to post \$70.8 billion, down from the \$72.8 billion expected for fiscal 1989. This is because, although export growth will surge, imports are expected to grow at a sustained firm rate, fueled by buoyant domestic demand.

Most of the recent large dip in the trade surplus has been attributable to such price factors as lower dollar prices due to the weak yen and increased crude oil prices. Dollar-denominated exports will show an increase of only 0.8 per cent over the previous year in fiscal 1989, but their growth will gather some steam, to post a gain of a 6.5 per cent in fiscal 1990.

Imports have been growing at

a high rate. As crude oil prices are expected to soften gradually, the growth rate of imports will slow down moderately for the time being. All the same, imports in fiscal 1990 will trend firm, registering a 9.9 per cent gain over the previous year (as against the 14.3 per cent rise posted in fiscal 1989).

The balance of invisible trade, which was in the red in fiscal 1988, will also run a large \$13.9 billion deficit in fiscal 1989 due to both a deteriorating travel balance and increased payments of investment income.

In fiscal 1990, however, the deficit is expected to shrink to \$11.2 billion because the surplus in the investment income balance will expand sharply. One reason for this is that Japan's net external assets are increasing. Another is that growth in dollar-denominated payments is slowing as a result of declining US interest rates. The deficit in the invisible trade balance is also expected to narrow because, due to the decelerating tempo of the yen's appreciation, the growth of overseas travel by Japanese will slow down though the volume will remain at a high level. As a result, the current-account balance will total \$55.5 billion in fiscal 1990, roughly the same level as in fiscal 1989 (an estimated \$55.1 billion).

ABC to sell shares to foreign investors

Bank's assets jump

BAHRAIN, Feb 11, (Reuters): Arab Banking Corporation BSC (ABC), the Arab world's largest bank, said today it would become the first Gulf-based firm to offer its shares to foreign investors on the open market.

ABC president Abdullah Saudi told reporters the bank would transfer its entire 1989 profit of \$132 million to loan loss provisions to pave the way for a planned \$250 million public share flotation in the first half of 1990.

"The board of directors felt strongly that in the light of the forthcoming share placement, the balance sheet should be strengthened by bolstering loan loss provisions in line with prevailing international levels," Saudi said.

He said Bahrain's government had told ABC it would allow people from countries outside the six-member Gulf Co-opera-

tion Council (GCC) to trade its shares on the island's stock exchange, making it the first Gulf bourse to do so.

"We expect a law announcing this to be issued in the next few days. It will set the trend for other international companies to be traded in local markets," he said.

ABC was also waiting for a go-ahead from Kuwait to allow the listing of its shares on the Kuwaiti Exchange, which would enable foreigners to trade them there also, Saudi said.

He said the move would boost the bank's cover to 40 per cent of its total loan exposure. ABC made a net profit of \$124 million in 1988 after setting aside 79 million in provisions against Third World debt.

Saudi said he hoped Arab investors would take up most of the new share issue, which will boost ABC's paid-in capital 33.3

per cent to \$1 billion and reduce the holding of its present shareholders to 75 per cent.

"The new shares will be sold to the public in the first half of 1990... initially I hope to see Arab investors taking a 15-20 per cent stake and foreigners five to 10 per cent," Saudi said.

ABC is owned equally by Kuwait's Finance Ministry, the Libyan Treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

"ABC will continue to make more efforts to penetrate Arab markets in the 1990s and the share issue is an indication of our keen interest to proceed with this policy," Saudi said.

The GCC grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates at present allows only its own nationals to trade shares in local stock markets. Money from the flotation

would be used to set up a subsidiary in Europe to incorporate ABC's branches in London, Paris and Milan under one umbrella and give it a foothold in Europe after its markets unify in 1992.

Saudi said a final decision on the subsidiary, with a paid-in capital of \$250 million, would be made in 1990.

A bank statement said total income fell four per cent to \$306 million in 1989 due to non-payment of interest by some Latin American countries, particularly Brazil and Argentina.

The decline was compensated for by an increase in fees and commissions, which rose by 30 per cent to \$179 million.

Assets jumped 13.6 per cent to \$21.73 billion in 1989 while deposits rose to 18.09 billion from 15.88 billion in 1988.

Jordan to study need for labourers

AMMAN, Jordan, Feb 11, (AP): Labour Minister Qasem Obaidat said today his ministry will study Jordan's need for foreign workers before deporting those caught in a crackdown.

Obaidat told parliament that his ministry estimates 225,000 foreigners are working in Jordan. The domestic, Jordanian labour force numbers less than 400,000.

He told reporters after the session that only 43,000 were working legally.

"Our figures are estimates with an 8 per cent margin of error," Obaidat said.

In announcing the crackdown last week, he said as many as 320,000 foreigners were working in the country, only 65,000 of them legally.

The large majority are Egyptians and Syrians, with a scattering of Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Indians, Pakistanis and others.

Obaidat said the ministry would seek out and expel illegal workers to free jobs for the estimated 85,000 unemployed Jordanians.

Obaidat's comments came after several deputies criticised the campaign on Saturday. They argued that skilled foreigners were needed as nurses, farmworkers and domestic helpers.

"We are launching a comprehensive study of the Jordanian labour market and its needs for foreign labourers," Obaidat told parliament.

"I think that decision did not

Duplicate systems Lotus opens copyright case

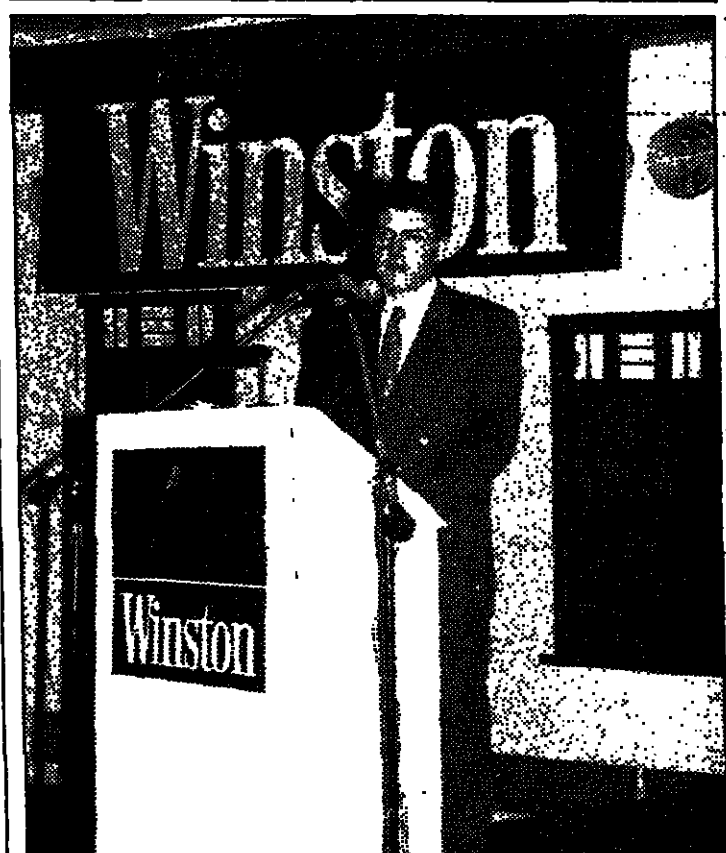
BOSTON, Feb 11, (AP): Three video screens sitting in a federal courtroom became the first key witnesses in Lotus Development Corp.'s copyright suit against two competing software companies.

As Charles Sullivan, a Lotus product marketing manager, punched out financial tables, first using the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet programme and then the programmes from the two competitors, the court was faced with nearly identical images on each screen.

Lotus is trying to prove that paperback Software International, of Berkeley, California, and Mosaic Software of Cambridge, near Boston, copied its popular 1-2-3 programme.

The case does not focus on the inner codes of the programmes, which experts agree fall under copyright protection, but instead concentrates on the keyboard commands associated with the programmes and how the images appear on the screen.

Lotus contends those elements — known as the user interface — signify the expression of an idea and are thus protected under copyright laws. Legal experts, however, say this area of the law is unclear.



Winston in the '90s

R.J. Reynolds, the international tobacco manufacturers, makers of Winston cigarettes, with the participation of W.J. Towell, their distributor in Kuwait, invited a host of managers and employees of co-ops, retail outlets and wholesalers to a dinner banquet at the SAS Kuwait Hotel in the Tent Ball Room.

Faddoul Bakhazi, resident field sales manager of RJR addressed the audience and thanked them for their participation and their fruitful co-operation in the past and stressed the fact that such a co-operation should prevail for the benefit of all who are involved. Then he explained about the Winston cigarette, its new image in the '90s, announcing a fresh start for it.

Michael Costandi of TMI Advertising, then took the stand and briefed the audience about the role of advertising in promoting a product and he exhibited some of the various executions of advertisements to be used for Winston in the '90s. Picture above shows a senior executive addressing the meeting.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 11/2/90				
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
07	Anyangyang	M. Bahar	2401900	
14	Ben Qunabab	KSA	4843150	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
11/02	Volosko	M. Bahar	2401900	
11/02	Hual Traveller	A. Bahar	2435891	
12/02	Gao Cheng	M. Bahar	2401900	
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT				
02	Aquris	RSMS	2423642	
10	Prosperity	Marafie	2465645	
14	Golden Wing	United	2463150	
VSL AT ANCHORAGE				
	South Wind	Algh Frit	4745533	
	Mex Horana	Algh Barwil	4842888	
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT				
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
11/02	Maersk Fiero	M.S. Behbehani	2412088	
11/02	Volosko	M.A. Bahar	2401900	
12/02	Addiriyah	UASC	4843150	
13/02	Toscani	UASC	4843150	
13/02	Torkey	KMMC	2434752	
16/02	Princess Betty	RSMS	2423642	
18/02	Providence Bay	KMM	2434752	

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Japan, US friendship is 'a major pillar of global stability'

WASHINGTON, Feb 11: "The United States must continue to lead the world... it must become a great nation again," a senior leader of Japan's ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party said in an almost pleading tone one evening over dinner.

The politician says he believes deeply in the fundamental importance of Japan's friendship with the US. Yet he also fervently defends Japan's record on trade and economic disputes with the US.

Americans don't try hard enough to sell in Japan, he regularly pronounces in meetings with American officials. He castigates American visitors, saying the US must tackle its own problems first, such as its budget deficit and its social problems.

Such assertiveness, many observers say, reflects a deepening sense of confidence and a growing feeling of nationalism in Japan. But the politician's faith in America reflects as well the paradox of Japanese power today, the continued unwillingness to move out from under the shadow of the postwar alliance with the US.

"A large majority of responsible Japanese leaders have found it virtually impossible to think beyond a world where the United States is of primary importance to Japan and where the Japan-US friendship is a major pillar of global stability," Takashi Inoguchi, a Tokyo University professor, wrote in an academic journal earlier this year.

Japan's emergence from the devastat-

ion of World War II to become the world's second-largest economy has led many to conclude that the nation will naturally seek an equivalent political leadership role. Some American commentators have even predicted the emergence of a "Pax Nipponica," a Japan-led world order. Some see the beginning of that era already in Asia, where Japanese money, technology, and trade ties are predominant.

"Japan is becoming the core economy in Asia," observes Robert Sutter, an Asia specialist at the Congressional Research Service in Washington, "which means a relative diminishment of US influence in Asia."

The Japanese have so far been reluctant to use their power to try to directly influence the policies of their Asian neighbours. Even in suspending aid and investment following antidemocracy crackdowns in Burma and China, Japan was following a US lead.

Still, Sutter argues, "the weight of Japanese investment overseas and the growing dependence on the Japanese market of Asian countries is ultimately going to have political implications."

But Americans err if they see Asia as a vacuum waiting to be filled by Japan. The greatest barrier to Japanese preeminence comes from Asians themselves, from nations such as South Korea or China and from commercial rivals such as the powerful networks of overseas Chinese businessmen that dominate business in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Southeast Asia.

Asian leaders do not question Japan's economic impact. But they reject the idea that Japan can supplant the American-led postwar order.

Japan because of its economic power has a role to play," Kim Dae Jung, the leader of South Korea's largest opposition party, said this fall over breakfast in his Seoul home. "But in other fields, in political fields, Japan lacks philosophy."

The Korean opposition leader, like most Koreans who grew up under Japanese colonialism, speaks Japanese fluently. He was a political exile in Japan during a long career of political dissidence. And he has been a frequent critic of US foreign policy.

The Westernizing intellectuals who helped led Japan's modernisation from the mid-19th century looked to the West for their ideas. They believed they could set an example for other Asian nations whose development was stagnated by feudalism and colonialism. But that more enlightened concept rapidly degenerated into Japan's attempt to build its own Asian empire from the late 19th century through World War II.

The Japanese Empire offered its Asian subjects a Pan-Asian doctrine of racial solidarity against Western imperialism, embodied in the wartime goal of creating a "Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere."

"Japan had a role in Asia, which was to establish the independence of Asian people from the domination of white people," says Seisuke Okuno, a conservative politician who served as government

official during the war.

Some Asian leaders found that claim credible, including the men who were leaders of independence movements in Burma, India, and Indonesia.

For Asians, the most worrisome prospect is the marriage of Japan's economic strength with military power. With the US urging it to play a greater military role, Japan has been engaged in a steady buildup of its defence spending and capability.

Economic writer Akira Kojima compares Japan today to the US after World War II, when America also enjoyed a huge surplus with the rest of the world. The US recycled 70 to 80 per cent of the total surplus to other countries through programmes such as the Marshall Plan, points out Kojima, who writes for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun. Japan's largest economic daily. "In (the case of) Japan, just 10 percent has been recycled."

The Japanese government is in the middle of a five-year \$50 billion programme to recycle funds to developing countries. Japan has taken the initiative to promote solutions to the third-world debt problem. And Japanese government foreign aid has grown to about \$10 billion a year, around that of the US.

But while the US surplus was in the hands of the government, the Japanese money is largely controlled by the private sector, by Japanese industrial companies, banks, and others. They recycle the surplus in the form of overseas invest-

ment and increased imports. Such transfers are catalysts in promoting the rapid growth and industrialisation of Asian nations such as Thailand and Malaysia.

In the last few years, Japan has taken on a more global role, joining in defining policies on problems such as the environment or debt. While Japanese assertiveness worries some Americans, the Bush administration and its predecessor have encouraged it. Secretary of State James Baker III calls for a "global partnership," exemplified by the joint US-Japan effort to aid the Philippines.

More often, in practice, it means the US defines the goals, as in Eastern Europe, and Japan contributes the money.

While the Japanese seek a more equal partnership, there is little serious discussion about breaking with the US. Japan's economic involvement with the US is too large and so much of its assets are in US dollars.

"We are destined to cooperate," says Kojima, who describes the situation as an economic version of the nuclear warfare doctrine of MAD (mutually assured destruction) in which neither side can afford to go to war.

At the same time, Japanese policymakers clearly envisage that if there is one area in which Japan can take the lead, it is in Asia. The promotion of a regional economic organisation is evidence of that thinking.

The Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

JAWWALITS

Prisoners raise funds for handicapped

Big-hearted women help little Stacey

PRISONERS and staff at a tough women's jail are raising the money to buy a little handicapped girl a happy new life.

Stacey Clark, aged four, needs £50,000 to send her to a Hungarian institute that will help her to walk and talk. And the people of the prison are determined to give £20,000 of this sum.

A girl serving a life sentence is helping to organise the appeal so that Stacey, who suffers from cerebral palsy can go to the revolutionary Peto Institute in Budapest. It leads the world in treating children with cerebral palsy by a unique programme of 'conductive' therapy.

Big-hearted women from the Holloway prison, in north London, are raising the money for the mercy trip through events that range from sponsored 'swimathons' in the prison pool to staff barbecues and sales of craft work made by prisoners in their spare time.

So far, they have £5,000 towards their target figure. And the prisoners — serving sentences for everything from theft to murder — and staff are determined that Stacey will soon be on her way.

Today, Stacey can sit up and crawl, but she has serious trouble walking and her worst problem is her badly affected speech. Although she is bright for her age, she finds it difficult to talk. The Peto could help her to communicate, and lead a normal life when she grows up.

The mercy crusade started when Stacey's grandfather Billy Bell, who works at the prison as a painter and decorator, told staff of her plight. Generous prisoners and officers sprang into action.

Appeal

Stacey's mother, 24-year-old Marie, told me: "Everyone at Holloway has been really great. I was quite surprised by their interest at first. But when we went there to visit, they were all incredibly friendly and nice."

"It's lovely to see the girls making a fuss of her when she goes swimming in the prison pool, and she loves the attention, too. They're sort of aunts to her as far as she's concerned."

"They are Stacey's main fund raisers now and we really are grateful for all their hard work on her behalf. We wouldn't have been expecting their help but we'd be lost without it."



Some members of the enthusiastic fund-raising team: life-prisoner Maria Dempsey (centre) with Lisa Elford, serving a three year sentence, and prison worker Sean Graham

The appeal for Stacey is being run by staff and prisoners. One of them is 27-year-old Maria Dempsey, who has served 14 months of a life sentence, and is helping to organise the other prisoners.

She told me: "I was up half the night making posters for the appeal, but it's worth the effort. Stacey is special to us all, and I think the world of her."

"When I first got here, I was lazing around doing nothing, feeling apathetic. But once Stacey took my interest, she gave me quite a lot to go for. I even seemed to get on better with the staff."

"Generally, I just make sure that inmates know what is going on. The appeal is a morale booster because it gives you a purpose and something to occupy your mind, rather than just sitting around."

"It's not true that you're locked away in a cell all day once you're inside prison. You can take part in things — like the swimathon for Stacey. That took a lot of organisation and help. But the girls all stuck together and, in the end, we had a good laugh, as well as getting £1,500."

The prison staff running the appeal have asked to remain anonymous to keep the attention focussed on Stacey, and for security reasons. But the chairwoman of the appeal, who is a prison officer, says she has been overwhelmed by people's generosity.

Looking through a bundle of letters, she told me: "Small local businesses in particular have been very, very good about giving donations. We've written to about 200 companies and most have responded, even if it's just to say, 'No, but sorry'."

Cause

"Arsenal, the local First Division football team, gave us signed photographs to use as raffle prizes. And companies have been lavish with prizes. But, I'm not saying we couldn't do with more."

"Of course, Stacey is the reason for the appeal. But it has also been good for the prison because it brings together people from different departments for a common cause. It's nice that staff and inmates have given up so much of their time."

"There's a good spirit about this appeal. We've contacted the social committees of every big prison in Britain, and their staff have brought in a lot of money. Big and small donations are just as important. A pensioner sent in a £5 note with an apology that she couldn't spare more. That really counts to us."

Caring for Stacey hasn't been easy for Marie and her 27-year-old husband Kevin, a telephone engineer. They have two other children, Lisa, aged seven, and one-year-old baby Dean to look after as well. Money is tight.

But when I finally met the family in their immaculate north London council house there was a relaxed, happy atmosphere.

The children were playing together and Stacey was pushing herself along a brightly-painted plastic tricycle.

Housewife Marie, said: "Stacey is a lovely little girl. The worst part is that, because she's handicapped, we have to fight for absolutely everything. We have enough on our plates as it is without that extra strain to cope with."

"For instance, we had a three-year wait for a white pair of boots to support Stacey's feet. Before that, she had to wear red all the time. So I put a pretty turquoise dress on her, the effect was ruined. It might not sound much, but it shows how even the simplest things take forever."

"She needs special equipment to help her walk, but we can't always afford to buy it ourselves and it can take months to arrive from the social services. With Stacey, we shouldn't be wasting any time."

Strain

Kevin added: "There's also the strain of waiting to hear from the Peto Institute. There's a long list and we're not sure when our turn will come. For us, the sooner the better. We're just keeping our fingers crossed. Hungary is the ultimate place for the therapy Stacey needs so, hopefully, they can help her. That's where we're putting our faith."

"It will be a lot of upheaval when our turn comes, but you've got to do what you think is best for your child. If there's nothing in this country to help her, then

we obviously have to go elsewhere.

"When you've got a handicapped child, you can never be sure that you're doing the right thing for her. All you can do is hope that you've chosen the correct method and the one that's best for her."

"We've made it clear that, if she does walk before we get to Hungary, then we won't go to the Peto. Instead, we'll leave the money in a trust fund for all the other expenses she'll need in her life. Things like a computer to help her learn to read and talk. We want to make that clear."

Marie told me that one of the most difficult problems to overcome is other people's attitudes towards handicapped children. She said: "Often, Stacey will cry to be put down. Then people will scold me because I won't let her walk. I have to say it's because she CAN'T walk."

The other annoying thing is people who talk to her through me, as if she's too stupid to understand. I feel like saying, 'Why don't you ask her? That's not a dummy in the pushchair, it's a little girl.'

Bright

"The worst part is that Stacey understands everything and is very bright. It must make life very frustrating for her. For that reason, it's particularly important that she learns to walk so that she can become independent. Then she can go upstairs and play with her sister Lisa when she wants to, instead of having to ask mummy to take her."

Stacey was doing her best to chip into the conversation, and she obviously knew we were talking about her. Crawling over to Marie, she demanded a cuddle by saying: "Ma-ma, ma-ma," and flashing a winning smile.

As Marie picked Stacey up, she said: "Stacey is getting speech slowly, but she gets cross with herself when she can't make herself understood. She needs a lot of help in that area and part of the fundraising is to pay for private speech therapy."

"Part of her brain is not working properly. But we have to ignore that and concentrate on the areas that are working. There's great potential. It really is just rigorous training. The more she is pushed and worked, the more likely she is to make



Family portrait: Kevin, Marie, Stacey, Lisa and baby Dean

progress."

Marie and Kevin happily give Stacey all the attention she needs. Kevin works shifts so that he can divide his life equally between work and the family. And Marie is used to spending long hours in hospital while Stacey goes for tests and treatment.

Marie told me: "Stacey might have a break from hospital for a whole month. Then she has to go in once a week for the next three months. She's due for a two-hour blood test soon. That's when she'll also start hormone treat-

ment to help her grow."

"That will mean an injection five nights out of seven. She will have to keep this up for the next 11 years. Considering that Stacey has all that ahead of her, we have to be here when she — and all our children — need us."

Kevin added: "We can't help worrying about Stacey's future. Our ideal is to get her to be as independent as possible. The main aim is to teach her to live on her own. That is important in later life, when we won't be here to help."

"She's a stubborn little thing. It's because she is so strong-willed that she has got as far as she has. I really think that, with help, she'll manage. Perhaps she'll be looking after us one day."

And Marie told me: "Underneath it all, Stacey is just the same as everybody else. It can be difficult getting that through to people. With the help of all the girls at Holloway, perhaps she'll be able to prove that fact for herself one day."

'Cocktail' of allergies

'I'm allergic to my husband'

EVEN though Jennifer Jones loved her husband, she found herself screaming and crying every time he came near her. For she had one of the world's most amazing complaints... she was allergic to her man.

They started sleeping in separate bedrooms and then, because of the strain of 46-year-old Jennifer's illness, husband Colin left her.

Doctors discovered that Jennifer was also allergic to nearly everything that is part of living in the twentieth century.

Electricity, gases, foods and chemicals make her come out in lumps, bumps and rashes. She can't watch television or listen to the radio. And a trip to the shops, because of all the electricity about, can put Jennifer in bed for three days. But now life is slowly improving for the housewife from Weybridge, Surrey.

A top allergy specialist has given her a gadget she calls 'my resurrector'. This is a small test-tube filled with electrically charged water, which she holds in her hand. The tube gives out an electrical current... which helps Jennifer fight her allergy to modern living.

She told me: "Now I can drive a car, and go on trains. I have been to the hairdresser for the first time in five years and I am allowed to watch one video on the television a month."

But things are still tough for Jennifer. She explained: "If I go near things that emit particular frequencies, or if I come into contact with certain gases, I start to scream and writhe. My legs turn to jelly and I just collapse in a heap."

But there has been a special tonic for her. Husband

Colin, aged 54, has come back to Jennifer. She discovered that, because he is a dentist, she is allergic to the gas and electricity from his surgery. Now he never comes near her in his "working clothes".

She told me: "Colin is a dentist and used to have the surgery in the house. So, with all the gas, and the electricity from the X-ray machine, I was very ill. Colin had gas clinging to his hair and clothes. So, every time he came near me, I reacted. I used to scream and cry until he came near me. I reacted. I used to scream and cry until he left the room."

"We used to sleep in separate bedrooms because I couldn't tolerate being near him. One night, Colin said, 'You're allergic to me'. And I had to agree with him."

Finally he left me, which is understandable. He tried to cope with me for as long as he could, but eventually it all became too much."

But Jennifer was determined to fight the allergies that were threatening to ruin her life. She went to see allergy specialist Dr Jean Monro, who gave her two weeks of tests. She told me: "When I got the results, I was reeling. They said I was reactive to practically everything."

For a while, things improved as Jennifer took a course of vaccines for her allergies. Then tragedy struck. Jennifer discovered she had breast cancer. The radiotherapy treatment for this worsened her allergy to electricity and cancelled out the good the vaccines were doing her.

But the disease brought Jennifer and Colin back together again. She explained: "I had asked Colin to check up on me every day, because I was alone in the house. One



Jennifer with her 'resurrector', the test-tube full of electrically charged water which she says has changed her life

day he came over to help me clean the leaves out of the garden, because I didn't have the strength to do it. And Colin simply decided to stay with me."

And there was more good news as doctors told Jennifer her cancer was cured. And today, although she is registered as disabled, her "resurrector" is helping her to enjoy life at last.

She explained: "The gadget is designed to cure my sensitivity to electricity by transmitting at a certain frequency. It burns my hand but it has changed my life. Before I had my resurrector in April, I couldn't even get 100 yards up my road without feeling wobbly."

Natural disasters on the rise

OVER the last three decades the number of natural disasters has increased sharply and the damages wrought have become more severe. Aside from tornadoes, thunderstorms and hail the devastation caused by floods has been particularly dramatic. By the same token, tropical cyclones have been moving in part along different routes imperiling ever larger regions.

These tendencies are reflected in the *World Map of Natural Perils* that was compiled by the group of researchers working for the *Munchener Rückversicherung*, an insurance company in Munich, West Germany. The map, which according to the researchers is "unparalleled in the world," was first published in 1978 and recently presented in an updated version. The changes reflected in this collection of data, which is primarily meant to help calculate insurance premiums, were more than striking. They reveal that the increase in natural disasters is now a proven fact.

The new edition of the map prepared by *Gerhard Berz* in cooperation with other researchers paints a "dramatic" picture. In the 1960s only three years listed featuring three severe natural disasters; the repercussions never exceeded the \$2 billion mark. By comparison, the situation has changed decisively in the 1980s. There were three years with ten or more disasters each, and in 1987 as many as 8 such events were registered. Total damages in 1988 soared to just under \$16 billion.

This record damage in 1988 was caused by only three catastrophes, including the devastating earthquake in Armenia (Soviet Union) and hurricane "Gilbert" in the Caribbean. The research team in Munich has encountered difficulties in explaining the phenomenon of skyrocketing damages in the wake of just one natural disaster.

A day of penance — splashing in the waters

BATU CAVES, Malaysia (AP): The pre-dawn mist melted quickly on Thursday last week, but was replaced by swirling smoke from tiny devotional fires as pilgrims prepared for a day of penance.

They began their rites at the river, splashing in dirty water and praying with relatives and friends. Toddlers were led into the stream by their mothers.

A man dressed only in shorts and with his head freshly shaved stepped from the water into a shuffie dance while others chanted encouragement and lit incense.

His eyes glittered. He drooled, and his limbs twitched spasmodically. The chanting became louder and his dance more frenzied as sacred ash was slapped on his head. The frenzy subsided in a few minutes. He seemed to fall into a trance.

Helping hands perched him on a small stool and carefully forced a metal spike the size of a knitting needle through his cheeks. A smaller rod was run through his tongue from top to bottom. Helpers attached barbed hooks weighted with limes to his back.

He didn't bleed and suffered no apparent pain.

This was Thaipusam in the Tamil lunar month of Thai, when the moon is in transit across the brightest star, Pusa, in the zodiacal sign of Cancer. It was Feb 8 in Malaysia this year and the scene at Batu Caves, nine miles (15 kilometres) north of the capital Kuala Lumpur, was repeated at

other places in the country by the Hindu devout.

Officials expected more than 500,000 at Batu Caves for the two and a half day festival. The annual mortification of the flesh is done to pay homage to the Hindu deity Lord Subramaniam, seek atonement, give thanks and fulfill vows.

Featured players at the festival were the 3,000 who registered with temple officials to carry a "kavadi".

These ranged from relatively small wooden yokes decorated with peacock feathers, tinsel and brightly coloured paper to 60-pound (27-kilogramme) steel frames with dozens of spikes to penetrate the flesh at many points. The kavadi symbolises Paravani, Lord Subramaniam's peacock steed.

To the uninitiated, — Thaipusam at Batu (stone) Caves is a stunning assault on the senses. Intense religious devotion is expressed among a throng of gawking sightseers in the raucous atmosphere of a carnival sideshow.

While family and friends chanted devotional songs and beat drums, humans covered with hooks, cheeks pierced with spears and tongues with arrows, walked a half-mile (one kilometre) from the river to 272 cement steps leading to cathedral cave.

The procession is a start-stop affair. Motor vehicles edge through the dusty column and the gates are occasionally lowered at a grade crossing between the

river and the cave for passing trains.

Kavadi carriers passed a ferris wheel and several acres (hectares) of temporary stalls offering food, drink, clothing, toys, wood carvings and pictures of Indian movie stars. Bangles, bangles and beads were available along with balloons, vitamin pills and "Govinda's vegetarian pizza".

Bearded mendicants solicited alms. Small boys sold camphor pellets to be burned in devotional flames by the faithful once inside the cave. A tour director cautioned his camera-toting charges against pickpockets.

There is no religious restriction or entrance fee for non-Hindus, and thousands of bearded foreigners were on hand, many of them on package tours, part of the government's Visit Malaysia year promotion.

Kavadi carriers shuffled faster and whirled in circles as they approached the steps. Several insisted on making the climb in quick spurts of 20 or more steps at a time.

The stairs are divided in the middle, with the left side reserved for ascent and the right for descent. Soldiers, police and white-suited first aid attendants helped control the crowd.

The vast limestone cave was lit inside by strings of electric lights, devotional fires and a beam of daylight from a vertical shaft through the top at one end.

Thousands packed the main floor of the cavern, which smelled of incense, sweat, jasmine and bat dung.

Penitents headed for a grotto holding the jewel-encrusted image of Lord Subramaniam. A priest removed the spikes and some kavadi carriers collapsed in exhaustion and religious fervor. Sacred ash and lime juice was applied to their wounds, but even after the trance lifted there was no apparent pain.

Several years ago, researchers from the United States and Australia separately investigated the seeming lack of pain, but without conclusive results. They did say that the sacred white ash, found to be mostly burned cow manure, and lime juice had nothing to do with it.

The few willing to talk about their deed said it was done for intensely personal reasons. One said he vowed to carry a kavadi for three years after he regained his health after a motorcycle crash. Another said he did it to honour his father.

The tradition at Batu Caves originated before the turn of the century, said temple chairman S. Sockalingam. Hindus in India have many sacred places in hills and mountains and there are celebrated cave temples. Tamils from southern India brought the observance of Thaipusam when they came to what was then Malaya to tap rubber.

India has banned such self-torture but it continues here with unabated fervor.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My brother has been informed he is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver. However, he has had no symptoms until just recently, when he visited his physician because of a weight loss. Do you feel the doctor was right in his diagnosis, and could you please explain how this disease developed so quietly?

ANSWER: It's difficult to comment on the correctness of the diagnosis without more information as to the findings of the examination and laboratory tests, but I can tell you that the condition of cirrhosis may develop over a period of time without many warning signs.

Cirrhosis is the result of an ongoing situation during which the liver cells are damaged and replaced by scar tissue. As the amount of normal tissue decreases, the liver can't handle the many functions it must perform in the normal individual and the symptoms become apparent in a gradual fashion.

Perhaps the first is a loss of appetite, which leads to deficient nutrition and a loss of weight, the situation you allude to in your question. The appetite loss can transform into actual nausea and then vomiting, further complicating the weight problem. A physical examination at this time can reveal a liver that is larger than normal, and close inspection of the skin may show the first signs of yellowing or "jaundice," which results when the liver can no longer remove certain bile pigments that are deposited in the skin.

As the liver progresses along the course of the disease, ascites or accumulation of fluid in the abdomen occurs as blood flow through the liver is reduced. As the liver loses its abilities to do the function, these patients may experience an increased sensitivity to medications and drugs.

All symptoms do not appear in all patients, and it is the task of both patient and physician to deal not only with these symptoms, but to discover the cause of the cirrhosis and remove it if possible. While there are many causes for liver disease that produce cirrhosis including infections, exposure to toxic chemicals and drugs, as well as drug reactions, in many cases it is caused by chronic, prolonged and excessive use of alcohol. Such patients can be helped greatly by avoiding alcohol completely and consuming a nutritious balanced diet along with necessary vitamin

CIRRHOSIS CAN DEVELOP WITHOUT MANY WARNING SIGNS

supplements. This may be easier said than done, but a supportive, concerned family is a great resource for the patient.

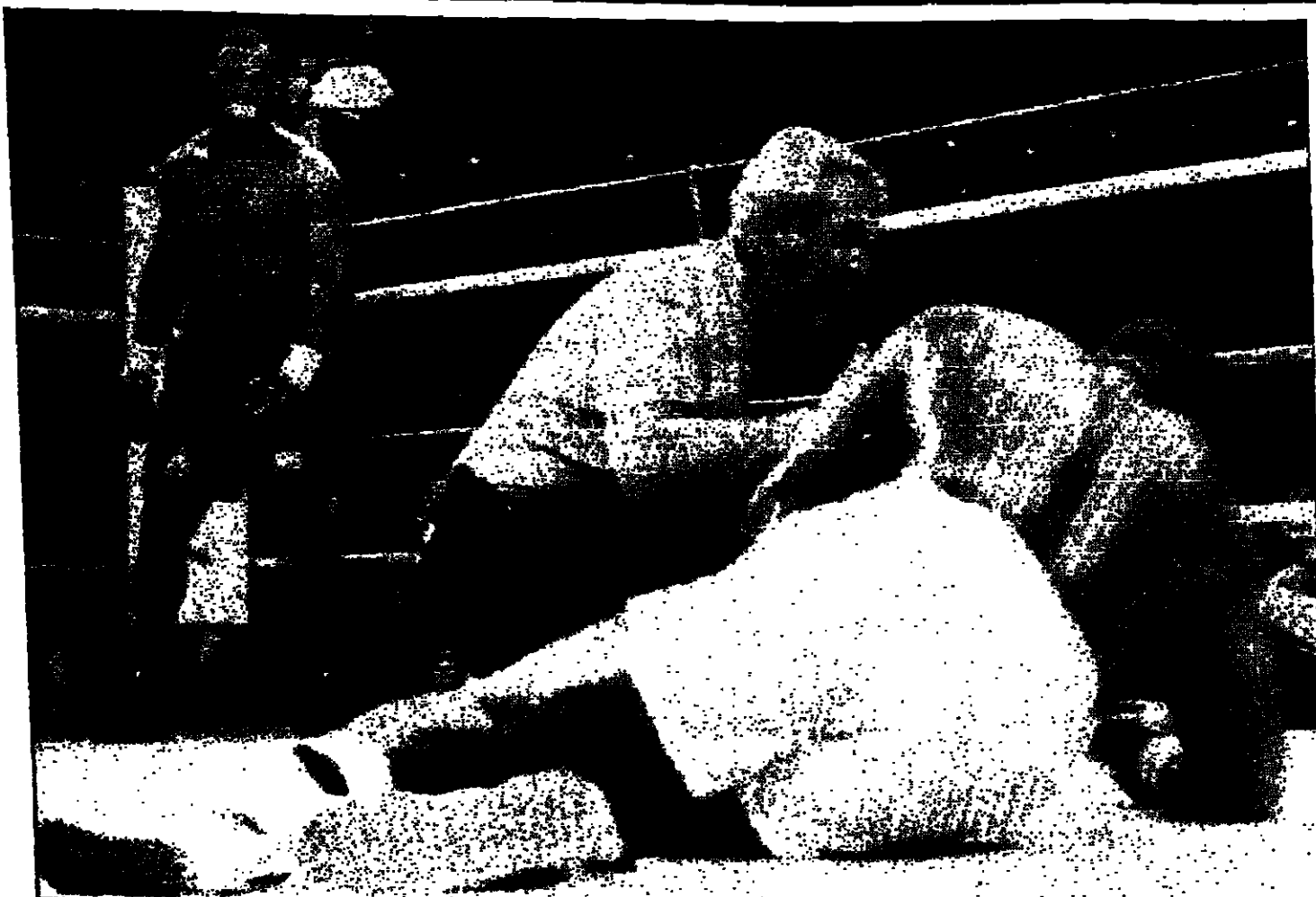
The Readers Speak: A few weeks back I answered a reader with information about various solutions to use in combating "bromhidrosis," or less elegantly put, "smelly feet." As anticipated, the mail has been full of personal observations and reports about other successful methods to control the problem. The top suggestion was Twenty Mule Team Borax (sodium borate) placed in the shoes. E.S.H. wrote, "My poor husband could fog up a room and we were desperate." She sprinkled borax in his shoes at night, and dumped the residue out in the morning, with noticeable results almost immediately. A.T. advises using 1/2 teaspoon borax every other day.

Sock advice ranked second. R.K. suggests, "Simply stop wearing coloured socks... as dyes react with shoe chemicals," while G.T.R. now wears "either pure wool or 100 per cent cotton socks that are not reinforced with any synthetic fibers."

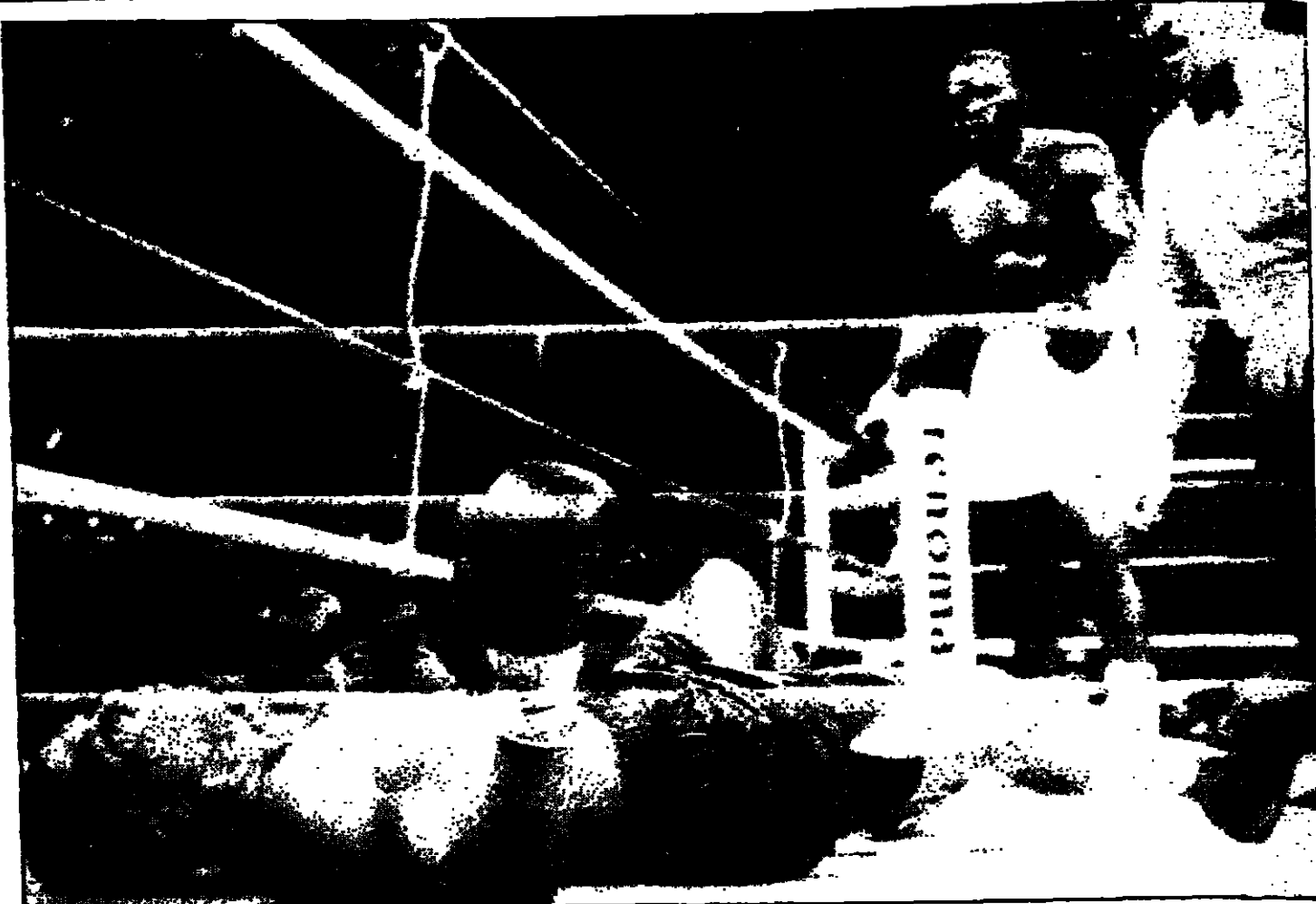
The third most common solution was offered by many of you who use Arm and Hammer baking soda to get rid of the nasty smells, all agree that keeping feet dry and clean helps combat this unpleasant condition.

Diabetes is a way of life for many people. With proper treatment, however, diabetes can lead long, productive lives. Learn how to detect diabetes, how to control it, and how to deal with loved ones who may suffer from it, all in Dr Bruckheim's latest booklet, *Diabetes and You*. To order your copy, send \$2.75 to Diabetes, P.O. Box 4406, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4406. Make checks payable to News-papers.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr Bruckheim in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119. 1990 Tribune Media Services, Inc.



Tyson looks down on Douglas after knocking him down in the 8th round. (Reuter wirephoto)



The referee counts out Tyson as Douglas looks on in the 10th round. (Reuter wirephoto)

Douglas KOs Tyson; result not accepted

Boxing officials hold heavyweight title in limbo

TOKYO, Feb. 11, (Reuter): James "Buster" Douglas stunned the boxing world with a tenth round knockout over seemingly invincible heavyweight champion "Iron Mike" Tyson at the Tokyo Dome today.

However, two of boxing's ruling organisations held the championship in limbo, after a protest launched by Tyson's camp.

Tyson may have knocked out Douglas two rounds earlier, the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association officials said at a news conference.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman of Mexico said the result of the match is suspended until the WBC executive committee can meet in Mexico City the week of Feb. 20. WBA reached a similar decision.

The fight, however, was quite dramatic.

Tyson, undefeated in his previous 37 professional bouts, was floored with a right uppercut to the head almost half way through the round. He staggered up, mouthpiece dangling from his bruised lips, but the count was over.

"It was a four-punch combination, jab, right-hand, jab, uppercut...all four punches were lethal," the new champion told a news conference. "It was an accumulation."

Douglas, 29, clambered into the ring a defiant underdog for the scheduled 12-round fight against an opponent whose awesome power once seemed unstoppable.

Asked if his stunning victory meant the age of Tyson was over, Douglas said: "I don't know about that. I'm just saying James Douglas has just begun."

On prospects for a rematch with Tyson, he said: "That would be in due time."

A shaken Tyson cancelled his

planned news conference and later swept out of the stadium surrounded by bodyguards who angrily pushed reporters away.

John Johnson, Douglas' manager, was asked later about a possible match with Evander Holyfield, the man lined up to meet Tyson had he won in Tokyo.

He said he had talked in Douglas' dressing room after the fight with New York financier Donald Trump, and agreed to get together with him back in New York to discuss the matter.

Douglas dominated most rounds with flurries of combination punching, with rights to the head doing the most damage.

By the fifth round, Tyson's left eye was swollen and by the end of the fight was nearly closed.

Tyson's best moment came in the eighth when he sent Douglas sprawling to the canvas with a right uppercut only a few seconds before the bell. Douglas managed to scramble to his feet and dominated the next two rounds.

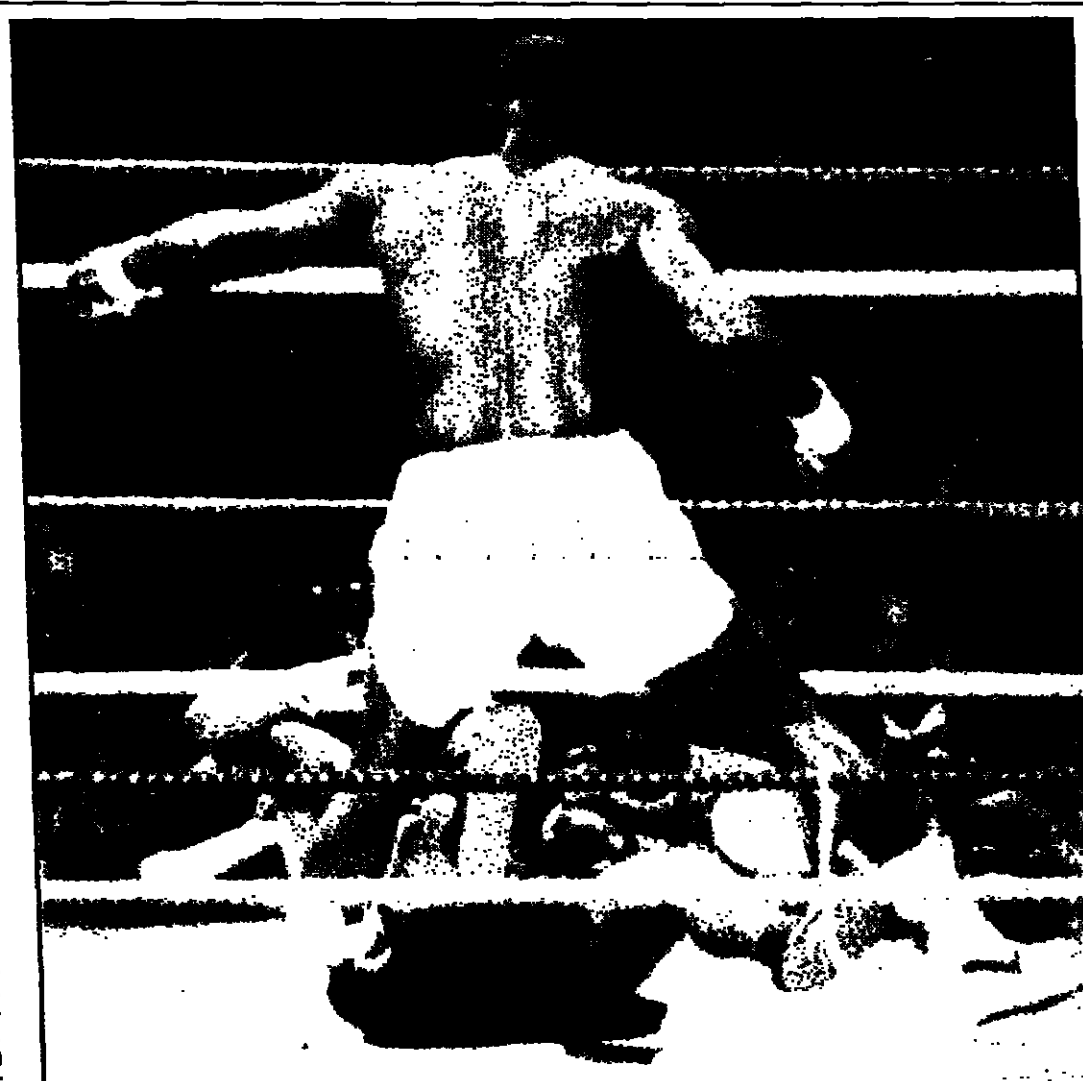
"I feel good," an overjoyed Douglas bellowed to reporters as supporters and newsmen mobbed him in the ring.

"Thank you, Japan, for making me feel at home. I love you. You treated me well."

Douglas, with a 29-win four-loss and one-draw record, was only the fourth ranking heavyweight contender but clearly had devised a strategy that would make him the first in 10 challenges to take away Tyson's crown.

Using his 10 cm (four inch) height advantage and longer reach, Douglas went on the offensive from the first round with left-right combination punching to Tyson's head, leading with his left and following up with a powerful right.

In the first three rounds Tyson seemed more puzzled than hurt by the attacks and frequently



James 'Buster' Douglas looks down on Tyson after flooring him. (Reuter wirephoto)

went into clinches.

He came back in the fourth with rights to the body and left hooks. A fast flurry of blows just before the bell gave that round to him.

However in the fifth it was

clear the undefeated champion's left eye had been damaged and it began to swell.

The fifth and sixth rounds were slow, with both fighters looking tired.

In the next two rounds Tyson

came back, repeatedly landing

jabs on Douglas' head and body.

Despite his fall in the eighth, the challenger came back in the ninth, hammering Tyson with more left-right combinations. By the end of that round Tyson's eye

was completely closed.

In the tenth Douglas came in for the kill, backing Tyson into a corner, and sending him crashing to the canvas.

The knockdown was officially timed at one minute 23 seconds into the round.

Douglas said he dedicated the fight to his mother who died recently.

Asked about his own knockdown by Tyson, Douglas said: "I was...surprised. It was a just a good shot. I wasn't really hurt."

He added, "he (Tyson) was very sharp. He was on. It was just that I was better."

Although organisers expanded the Tokyo Dome seating for the occasion to 63,000, estimated attendance was only about 40,000.

Nevertheless, Douglas was guaranteed some \$3 million for his day's work, while Tyson's guaranteed consolation prize was reported at around \$9 million.

Notable upsets in heavyweight title fights:

Jim Braddock defeated Max Baer at New York City, 15-round decision, June 13, 1935.

Ingemar Johansson stopped Floyd Patterson at New York City, third round, June 26, 1959.

Muhammad Ali stopped Sonny Liston at Miami Beach, Florida, seventh round, Feb. 25, 1964.

George Foreman stopped Joe Frazier at Kingston, Jamaica, second round, Jan. 22, 1973.

Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman at Kinshasa, Zaire, eighth round, Oct. 30, 1974.

Leon Spinks defeated Muhammad Ali at Las Vegas, 15-round decision, Feb. 15, 1978.

James "Buster" Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson at Tokyo, 10th round, Feb. 11, 1990.

WBA and WBC reject decision

TOKYO, Feb. 11, (Reuter): The two major world boxing organisations have said they will not recognise the result of today's world heavyweight title bout in which James Douglas knocked out champion Mike Tyson.

The World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Council (WBC) said they had withdrawn recognition because of a controversial incident in the eighth round when Tyson floored Douglas.

Douglas recovered to knock out Tyson in the 10th round but the Tyson camp later claimed the eighth round count had been slow.

WBC chief Jose Sulaiman told reporters: "As of today, no-one is heavyweight champion until February 20 when I meet with the WBC executive committee."

WBA officials said they were withdrawing recognition of Douglas' sensational victory over the previously undefeated Tyson.

The WBA officials said referee Octavio Meyrian had ignored the usual practice of taking over the official timekeeper's count which starts the moment a boxer hits the canvas.

They said, instead, he had started his own count which meant Douglas had been down for 12 or 13 seconds. "I made a mistake," referee Sanchez said. "The count lasted longer than ten seconds."

WBA president Gilberto Mendoza said his group was likely to come to a joint agreement with the WBC.

"A rematch is absolutely mandatory," Sulaiman said. "I'm almost sure that both Douglas and Tyson want to meet again."

Tyson said of the eighth round knockdown: "I thought that was a pretty decent shot and I thought the referee had counted him out and the eighth was over. Then the ref waved us on..."

Asked if he still thought of himself as world champion he replied: "Absolutely yes."

While no Douglas camp representative was visible at the front of the room, his promoter Peyton Sher was present.

"I think it stinks," Sher said when told of the boxing authorities' decision.

"He beat Mike Tyson every round," Douglas' manager John Johnson said. "After getting knocked down he kicked his ass."

James was in control of the fight from the very beginning."

Told that at the end one official had Tyson ahead on points, one had Douglas ahead and another had the fight as a draw, Johnson scornfully shot back: "Those judges shouldn't be judges. We thought he (Douglas) won every round."



Tyson (left) gets a blow from Douglas. (Reuter wirephoto)

Douglas seeks 'people's championship'

JAMES "BUSTER" DOUGLAS is seeking a 'people's championship' fight with leading heavyweight contender Evander Holyfield, Douglas' manager John Johnson said today.

"The WBA and WBC (Tyson promoter) Don King can all go to hell as far as I'm concerned," Johnson told Reuters.

He said he would add the International Boxing Federation (IBF) to that list if they joined in the WBA and WBC stance. The IBF was not represented at the news conference where the WBA and WBC announced their position.

Johnson denied any intention of having a rematch with Tyson before fighting Holyfield.

WBC president Jose Sulaiman said at the news conference he thought a rematch "was absolutely mandatory."

"I'm almost sure that both Douglas and Tyson want to meet," he said. But Johnson said that while the Douglas camp had expected to work with King to arrange a rematch after a bout with Holyfield, plans for that were off in light of the WBA and WBC action.

King and Tyson were on the date at the news conference, while Douglas and Johnson were not. Had Tyson won, he would have faced Holyfield on June 18 in Atlantic City in a deal expected to gross as much as \$75 to \$80 million.

A Douglas-Holyfield fight would probably

bring far less — with no cut for King.

In January, King said it would be a great tragedy if Tyson lost to Douglas, referring to the effect on the fight with Holyfield.

"It would be a great tragedy. If he loses, there is no match between Tyson and Holyfield... the contract becomes invalid."

The Douglas victory also made a shambles of plans by flamboyant promoter King for a "freedom fight" in Berlin. Today before the Tyson-Douglas bout King said plans for that were progressing and that he expected it to be Tyson's next title match after Holyfield.

He had hoped for a September or October date, with contender Greg Page the likely challenger.



Douglas (left) knocks out Tyson in 10th round. (Reuter wirephoto)

Round 1
The fighters trade left jabs in the opening seconds. Tyson trying to get inside and Douglas moving away. Tyson lands a soft left uppercut and Douglas responds with a combination to the top of Tyson's head. Tyson sends a left to the body and misses a right to the head. The fighters were warned to watch their heads. Douglas connects with a soft right to the head. Douglas lands a jab to the head and follows with a right-left to the head. Tyson walks into an uppercut, with no visible damage. Tyson lands a left to the chin as the round ends.

Round: Douglas
Round 2
Douglas ties up Tyson whenever the champion moves inside. Douglas lands two lefts and a right to the head. Douglas connects with a right to the head and Tyson counters with a right to the head. Tyson lunges and misses with a left, but

then lands a hard left to the belly. Douglas pops a combination to the head, but Tyson drills a jab to the chest in response. Douglas lands a four-punch combination, forcing Tyson to move backward and cover up. Tyson seemed confused as the bell sounded.

Round: Douglas
Round 3
Tyson charges out and backs Douglas into the ropes, but Douglas again ties up the champion. Tyson connects with a left to the body and Douglas counters with a light right to the head. Douglas lands another combination to the head as Tyson begins to show his frustration. Tyson lands a glancing right, but Douglas ties him up. Douglas connects with a right to the head as Tyson continues to miss with his punches. Tyson scores with a left to the body, but Douglas jabs and moves away. Douglas continues to jab and tie up Tyson as the

champion moves inside.
Round: Douglas
Round 4
Douglas still appears quicker and more accurate in the early going, continuing to pop away with jabs. Tyson tries to work inside, but Douglas moves away. Douglas pops two jabs to the top of Tyson's head, and the champion misses with a left hook. There was little action as the fighters repeatedly clinched. Douglas pops a right to the head and a stinging jab as Tyson is short with a left. Tyson misses two lunging left hooks. Douglas connects with a solid left and Tyson shoves Douglas back as the round ends.

Round: Douglas
Round 5
Tyson moved to the middle of the ring before the bell sounded. Douglas jabs to keep the champion away and backs off quickly, using his superior reach to his

advantage. Douglas connects with a short right to the head and Tyson counters with a left to the body. Douglas lands a left that seemed to hurt the champion. Douglas lands a hard right to the head and Tyson is wild with a left. Douglas continues to tie up Tyson inside. Tyson's swollen left eye begins to close. Tyson lands a left-right combo to the body and Douglas ties him up. The fighters trade punches after the bell.

Round: Douglas
Round 6
Tyson's corner works on the champion's eye between rounds, applying ice. The fighters trade left uppercuts and clinch. Tyson drills a short right to the chin and Douglas ties him up inside. Tyson is unable to put together any effective punches. Tyson pops a left jab that bounces off Douglas' shoulder and the challenger counters with a jab to the head. Douglas, showing more mobility,

continues to jab and move. Tyson misses with a right, then with a lunging left.

Round: Tyson
Round 7
Tyson is warned for a low blow as a right lands on Douglas' belt. The challenger pops two lefts to the head. Tyson moves inside and Douglas again ties him up, doing an excellent job keeping the champion off-balance. Douglas jabs away to keep the champion off him. Douglas lands a right to Tyson's chin. Tyson drills a right to the body and Douglas' hands seem to drop slightly. Tyson is wild with two punches and again is warned for a low blow. Tyson lands a right to the side of the head. Tyson connects with a left-right combination to the body.

Round: Tyson
Round 8
Douglas opens with two jabs and Tyson goes to the body with a three-

punch combination. Douglas misses with a wild right hand and Tyson narrowly misses with a left hook. Douglas appears to have slowed down from previous rounds, missing often as Tyson attacks the body. Tyson pops a right off the back of Douglas' head and the challenger moves away. Douglas lands two light left jabs and follows with three more left jabs that bounce off Tyson's head. Tyson drills a right to the body. Douglas lands a right to the head and a left to the body. Tyson knocks down Douglas with a right uppercut. Douglas barely beats the count as the bell sounds.

Round: Tyson
Round 9
Tyson begins to stalk Douglas, who throws an early punch that nearly hits the referee. Tyson drills a right to the head, causing the tiring challenger's knees to wobble. Douglas, whose legs seem rubbery, ties the champion up mid-

way through the round. Douglas pulls himself together with a combination that seems to sting Tyson. The champion now seems arm-weary, as both fighters are draped over the ropes. Douglas lands a right lead and a left jab as Tyson moves backward. Douglas dominates the final 30 seconds as Tyson looks more like the tired fighter.

Round: Douglas
Round 10
Both fighters miss with rights and Douglas shoves Tyson away. Douglas pops a right off the top of Tyson's head. Douglas sends three stinging jabs to Tyson's face and the champion retreats. Douglas scores with a left, then a wicked right uppercut turns Tyson's head. Douglas sends Tyson flat on his back with a left uppercut. Tyson rolls over on his hands at the count of five, but is unable to beat the count of referee Octavio Meyron. Tyson is counted out at 1:23 of the round.

Monroes, Baggs meet in title decider

WITH only 3 weeks of the 1989-90 regular season still remaining the top three teams in the Mouchel Monday Men's Darts League are almost certainly finalised. The only unknown is in what order they will finish. The last few games have not shown any sign of weakness in either Baggs or Monroes, the only two real contenders for this season's title, and the tension was heightened still further this week as both came through difficult matches with emphatic 6-0 wins. Everything is likely to depend on tonight's game when Baggs host their arch-rivals in a do or die affair, that will be no place for the squeamish or faint hearted.

Monroes came into the big game having plucked the Tyne Tees Pheasants clean with a 10-0 sweep, Peter Zobrist roasting Paul Coutts 2-0 with a 140, as the whole side threw good steady darts. Baggs' visit to Cottar House was almost as successful, giving away just two legs in a fixture that has traditionally been a much closer contest. Brendan Richardson did get 3 100's as he went down to Bader Radi, as did Mohammed Al Qabandi in beating Peter Granowski. One of the emerging stars for Baggs is Jackie Moss who has now played twice, and won twice in the men's games, as both Keiren Dick and Bill Morton will testify.

Having gained their first point last week, Stars of the Year obviously found the sensation enjoyable, as they bagged Raganuffins into another 3-3 draw. The Stars were never ahead, but fought gamely to snatch the final third mouse leg to secure point-number 2. David Gardner made his second consecutive win and Noel Greaney a 99 finish although he narrowly lost to Wayne Mecho who worked a 140.

The final match found Bialles trouncing T.C.E. 6-0 although their revival is now too late to prevent Campanologians from taking third place. Tony Robinson continued his own fine season with 3 more high scores.

There was no change in the Mouchel Monday Ladies League, the two matches played ending at 2-2. Marilyn's season had a total disaster going 0-3 down to Tyne Teasers, before salvaging a point. Diane Sims getting 2 run trebles for the second time this year and the Nightingales - Cottar House draw helps neither side as they both chase the League third spot. Featherlights were once more out of action, and it would seem that Marilyn's main hope of winning would be if the 8 games in the 16 days remaining to the end of the League season proved too much for the Featherlight girls.

Hyderabad defeat MCC by 37 runs



Karam: scored 35

HYDERABAD Welfare Cricket Association (HWCA) beat Meriden Cricket Club (MCC) by 37 runs in a friendly cricket match on Friday.

HWCA skipper Murtaza Qadri won the toss and elected to bat. HWCA scored 189 in their 30 overs. In reply MCC were only able to get 152 runs.

HWCA were given a good start by Manjuna and Irfan, who put on 26 and 25 runs respectively. Karam boosted his team's total by scoring 35 off only 24 balls while Jamil chipped in with 2.

For MCC, Rizwan and Khalid took two wickets each. MCC's Amer hit 38 while Liaquat scored an unbeaten 37 but the other batsmen, except for Rizwan (26), failed to take up the challenge.

Karam was later declared Man of the Match for his excellent batting.

Moody wins Man of the Match award

Aussies rout Pakistanis

BRISBANE, Australia, Feb 11. (Reuters): Australia scored their third highest total in one-day limited-over cricket to beat Pakistan by 67 runs in a World Series Cup match at the Brisbane Cricket Ground today.

The Australians went into overdrive from the fifth over of their innings and powered to 300 for five from 50 overs.

Set six runs an over to complete two wins in a row at the weekend after defeating Sri Lanka yesterday, Pakistan kept pace with the required rate but lost wickets in rapid succession before being bowled out for 233 in the 40th over.

Australia have scored more runs only twice in their 19-year one-day game history.

South Australia's Adelaide Oval was the venue for their biggest score—323 for three against Sri Lanka in January 1985, while in February 1983 they amassed 302 for eight against New Zealand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Man of the Match Tom Moody, who had his best innings in eight one-day matches with 89 runs off 82 balls in 102 minutes, said Australia gave a "complete team effort."

"It is unusual for someone not to get a reasonably big 100 in a score of 300," he said.

The 24-year-old right-hander was the dominant force in an outstanding first wicket partnership of 154 off just 162 deliveries, the equal third highest on record, with Mark Taylor, who took a personal limited over best with 56 runs.

The two most inexperienced limited over players in the side, dubbed the Laurel and Hardy of Australian cricket because of Moody's height and Taylor's stockiness, thumped Pakistan to all parts of the ground and laid the foundation for the total.

They posted their 50-run part-



Imran: failed to take his team to victory despite hitting an unbeaten 82

nership in 52 minutes from 85 balls. The 100 came up in 54 minutes off 92 deliveries and the 150 partnership in 106 minutes from 161 balls.

Australia's innings had started with controversy when Taylor appeared to be caught in the gully by Javed Miandad from Waqar Akram's bowling when he was on one.

Taylor began to walk but the catch was queried and after consultation with the umpires and discussion with Pakistan captain Imran Khan, Taylor stayed at the crease.

Moody said: "Tails (Taylor) thought I'd said he'd caught it so he began to walk. But you

have to give full credit to Pakistan—they said they weren't sure and it was left to the square leg umpire to make the decision."

Pakistan openers Javed and Salim Younis smashed 20 runs off the first two overs but they, Rameez Raja and Saeed Anwar all fell before Pakistan reached 100.

Imran, who made 82, held the innings together but his partners came and went in quick succession as brilliant Australian out-fielding brought three run outs and some spectacular catches.

Steve Waugh, Moody and Allan Border produced magnificent throws to run out Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Malik and

Tausif Ahmed.

Jones produced the catch of the summer to dismiss Anwar, when he ran 20 metres with his back to the ball before clutching it with one hand as it came over his shoulder.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA Innings
M. Taylor b Tausif Ahmed 68
T. Moody b Waqar Akram 89
D. Jones run out 32
A. Border c Younis b Akram 26
S. Waugh c Malik b Mushtaq 13
S. O'Donnell not out 31
I. Healy not out 22
Extras (5b 13b 4w 1nb) 21
Total (for five wickets) 300
Fall of wickets: 1-154, 2-176, 3-222, 4-240, 5-246.

Bowling: Waqar Akram 10-1-43-1 (1w, 1nb), Imran Khan 10-0-54-0 (1w), Aaqib Javed 10-0-54-0 (1w), Tausif Ahmed 10-0-57-1, Mushtaq Ahmed 10-0-75-2 (1w).

PAKISTAN Innings
Javed Miandad c Waugh b Alderman 18
Salim Younis c M. Taylor b Saeed Anwar 7
Saeed Anwar 37
Rameez Raja c P. Taylor b O'Donnell 9
Ijaz Ahmed run out 27
Imran Khan c Border b Rackemann 22
Salim Malik run out 27
Waqar Akram c Rackemann 8
Mushtaq Ahmed c M. Taylor b Rackemann 11
Tausif Ahmed run out 0
Aaqib Javed not out 0
Extras (2b 1w 1nb) 8
Total: 233

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-37, 3-68, 4-77, 5-132, 6-192, 7-206, 8-228, 9-233, 10-233.

Bowling: T. Alderman 5-0-30-1, M. Hughes 7-0-30-1 (1w), C. Rackemann 4-1-0-44-4, S. O'Donnell 5-0-43-1 (1nb), P. Taylor 7-0-41-0, A. Border 4-0-23-0.

Standings

Standings in the World Series Cup cricket tournament after today's match (tabularia under matches played, won, lost, points and run-rates):

Australia	5	5	0	10	4.78
Pakistan	4	1	3	2	4.48
Sri Lanka	5	1	4	2	4.14

CRICKET

Tendulkar and More put India in control

NAPIER, New Zealand, Feb 11. (Reuters): A record seventh-wicket stand of 128 between 16-year-old Sachin Tendulkar, who remained unbeaten with 80, and Kiran More boosted India to a healthy total of 348 for seven against New Zealand in the second Test today.

The partnership, which was formed when India had lost two quick wickets to the second new ball, passed India's previous best seventh-wicket stand against New Zealand, 126 by Brijesh Patel and Syed Kirmani, at Wellington, in 1976.

Tendulkar, whose innings was chanceless, even if shaky at the start, had batted 308 minutes at the end. More got his 73 in 167 minutes and his eleven fours.

The score when Tendulkar and More came together was 218 for six. The anchor of their batting was opener Manoj Prabhakar, who was only five short of his century when he was out to a controversial caught behind decision, off Richard Hadlee.

Prabhakar had batted for six hours and 20 minutes and hit only three fours. It was a tedious



Sachin Tendulkar



Kiran More

innings but, from India's point of view, invaluable.

Prabhakar was first of two victims — Kapil Dev was the other — Hadlee claimed in three overs with the second new ball.

Before this intervention on the part of the great all-rounder, Prabhakar and Tendulkar had put on 58 for the fifth wicket.

India had lost two wickets in the morning in very close succession, the damage this time done by Danny Morrison. He struck when India had added only 24 runs to their overnight score of 126 for two.

Morrison clean bowled Asharuddin, who was batting adventurously and then inflicted on Dilip Vengsarkar, a duck in his comeback innings. He had him caught by wicket-keeper Jun

Smith. Hadlee and Morrison shared the bowling honours, with three wickets each.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings	0
W. Raman b b Hadlee	0
M. Prabhakar c Smith b Hadlee	95
S. Manjrekar c Smith b Morrison	42
M. Asharuddin b Morrison	33
D. Vengsarkar c Smith b Morrison	0
S. Tendulkar not out	80
Kapil Dev b b Hadlee	4
K. More c Franklin b Snedden	73
S. Venkateswamy Raju not out	2
Extras (1b-5, nb-14)	19
Total (for seven wickets)	348
To bat: A. Waheed, N. Hirwani	
Fall of wickets: 1-02-923-1504-152	
5-210 8-218 7-348	
Bowling: R. Hadlee 33-10-71-3	
(8nb), D. Morrison 36-8-80-3 (8nb)	
M. Snedden 42-10-104-1	
Bracewell 22-5-50-0, K. Rutherford 9-0-28-0	

Lamb, Stewart rescue England

CASTRIES, St Lucia, Feb 11. (Reuters): Allan Lamb and Alec Stewart rescued England from the doldrums yesterday with a third-wicket stand of 152 after the touring team had looked to be heading for defeat inside three days by the Windward Islands.

Their face-saving stand came after an embarrassing morning session during which England lost their last six first innings wickets in only 48 minutes and then stumbled to 14 for two when they followed on 191 behind.

But despite the heroics by Lamb and Stewart, England ended the third day in a precarious position at 217 for five — just 26 runs ahead.

Only some more heroics by the lower order batsmen will deny the Windward Islands a second successive win over an England touring team. They beat David Gower's side in the first match of the 1986 tour.

Debutant left-arm spinner Mervin Durand was responsible for much of England's embarrassment early in the day as they subsided tamely from 97 for four to 126 all out 19.4 overs.

Durand, who picked up two wickets and conceded just one run in 10 overs on Friday, continued to mesmerise the England batsmen when play resumed.

He took five of the last six wickets, including three in his final three overs, to finish with the remarkable figures of seven for 15 off 19.4 overs.

Well though he bowled, too many of the England batsmen

surrendered their wickets to bad shots.

Ironically, Durand did not take a wicket in his 22 overs in the second innings, though he did have Lamb dropped on 37 by wicketkeeper Junior Murray and Keith Medley put down at slip shortly before the close.

Lamb and Stewart, one of the big successes of the tour so far, put together their 152-run stand in 46 overs after openers Graham Gooch and Wayne Larkins had fallen cheaply.

The third-wicket pair fell in quick succession to off-spinner Thomas Kentish, who ended the day with three wickets.

Stewart hit a measured 77 off 178 balls, while Lamb's 83 included two sixes off leg-spinner Julian Charles.

Scoreboard

WINDWARD ISLANDS first innings	317
(L. John 83, D. Joseph 59)	
ENGLAND first innings (overnight)	97
(for four)	
G. Gooch b b Allen	19
W. Larkins c Murray b Durand	31
A. Lamb b b Collymore	8
A. Lamb b Durand	20
R. Smith b Durand	12
D. Capel c Telemaque b Kentish	8
R. Russell b Durand	7
P. DeFreitas not out	3
K. Medley c Collymore b Durand	3
S. Hemmings c Charles b Durand	6
A. Fraser c Charles b Durand	0
Extras (1b-1 nb-12)	18
Total	198
Fall of wickets: 1-38 2-43 3-57 4-88	
5-108 6-111 7-113 8-118 9-124	
Bowling: Allen 9-3-23-1 (3nb), Collymore 11-1-35-1 (5 nb), Thomas 7-0-18-0 (nb), Kentish 19-7-33-1, Durand 18-4-11-15-7.	

ENGLAND second innings

G. Gooch c Telemaque b Collymore	7
W. Larkins b b Allen	0
A. Stewart b Kentish	77
A. Lamb c Telemaque b Kentish	83
R. Smith c Joseph b Kentish	19
S. Capel not out	12
K. Medley not out	3
Extras (2b 1b-1 nb-9)	17
Total (for five wickets)	217
Fall of wickets: 1-32 2-143 3-180 4-193	
5-208	
Bowling to date: Allen 8-1-18-1, Collymore 14-0-43-1, Kentish 22-3-66-3, Thomas 6-0-15-4, Durand 22-4-47-0, Charles 7-0-32-0.	



Allan Lamb

Lanka Colts blast Casuals by 10 wickets

LANKA COLTS (Trio) convincingly defeated Casuals by 10 wickets in a Knock-out Cup 'A' semifinal cricket match at Ahmedi on Friday morning.

Battling first, Casuals openers Seward and Arton-Powell started rather cautiously with measures of their recent low score of 70 all out against the Colts still fresh in their minds. With the odd single they plodded on to add just 10 runs in 3 overs when Seward was deceived by a typical Lankan outwinger that eventually uprooted his off stump.

Andrew Flabo, coming in at the fall of the first wicket, soon settled in to play his normal game of attacking cricket. With a couple of delightful drives and a lovely pull for 6, he was desperately searching for top gear.

The introduction of the left arm medium pacer Lal Pemasiri into the attack accounted for the dismissal of Arton-Powell who was baffled by a superb leg side stumping by Chris Amarasekera.

With a total of 31 for 2 off 12 overs, the Casuals appeared to have weathered the early storm. However, with Andrew Flabo running out for a well-made 26, due to an excellent piece of out cricket from Senaka, Casuals wickets started to tumble at regular intervals. With Clements bow to Lal for 2, Snowden out to a brilliant catch at mid-on by Reville, and Adi Selvaratnam run-out while desperate to 'try' for a second run, the Casuals slumped to 71 for 5 off 22 overs.

Sensible batting by Peter Bond who remained not out on 24 saw them through to 96 for 8 off 30 overs.

The pick of the Colts bowlers were Lal for 16 runs and Pemasiri for 2 for 5 and 2 for 16 respectively. They were ably supported by Nalaka, Solomon, Oliver and Oseen who shared the remaining wickets.

With an asking rate of just over 3 runs per over, the Colts openers Nalaka and Ramson comfortably saw off an initial maiden over from Snowden to power the Colts to a 10 wicket victory in just 15.1 overs.

Nalaka, who scored an unbeaten 61, was severe on anything pitched up or short of a length. His excellent knock was studded with 7 boundaries and an effortless pull for 6 off Flabo. Ramson, who remained not out on 31 was graceful as ever with his wide repertoire of strokes, finding gaps in the Casuals field with the utmost of ease.

The Lanka Colts who are led by Hiran Fernando are now through to the final to be played in Ahmedi on March 5.

Moeller finishes last

PARIS, Feb 11. (Reuters): Double champion Silke Moeller led an unusual flop by the normally so powerful East German team at a six-nation indoor athletics meeting yesterday.

Moeller, winner of the 100 and 200 metres titles at the 1987 world championships, was plainly out of shape as she finished sixth and last in the 50 metres won by Ulrike Sarvari of West Germany in 17.16 seconds.

Sarvari rubbed it in by taking a big lead over Moeller in the second leg of the 4x200 metres relay, also won by West Germany after the Soviet Union, who beat the world record time, were disqualified for an illegal baton change.

But, that apart, the Soviet team had things all their own way, winning six of the 10 women's events to beat West Germany by six points.

The East German team finished last of the six nations, which also included Italy and Spain, and the women, who have no peers even on an average day, only third.

The East German team salvaged a little pride at the end of the meeting when Joerg Fries won the triple jump, the first victory of the meeting for his team.

Olympic bronze medalist Jens-Peter Herold followed by taking the 1,500 metres, moving smoothly away on the final lap to beat Herve Philipp of France.

Green ahead

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb 11. (Reuters): Hubert Green eagled the final hole to grab a one-stroke lead over local favourite David Ishii after three rounds of the \$1 million Hawaiian Open golf tournament yesterday.

Green, who won this event in 1978 and 1979, posted a third-round six-under-par 66 for a 10-under 206 total under calm conditions at Waialae Country Club.

The Hawaiian-born Ishii, who regularly plays the Japan PGA Tour, posted a 68 with a 35-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a nine-under-par 207 total.

Bin Khalifa scores easy Desert Challenge victory

IN the recent BP 2000 Dubai Rally, the first round of the 1990 Marlboro Desert Challenge, Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum's victory again provided the proof that Land Rover is practically unbeatable in the Dubai Desert terrain. Time after time he is a BP 2000 event or the Masafi 4 WD in the Emirates, Suhail or his brother Ahmed have taken victory, in their locally prepared Land Rover.

The event which marked the start of the 1990 four-wheel-drive rally season was widely regarded as the toughest yet in the Marlboro Desert Challenge series, which is now in its fourth year. The stages were very sandy, twisting, and very bumpy, and with an unusually high ratio of special stages as opposed to road section. The total distance of the BP 2000 Dubai rally was 372.22 kms. Of this 256.35 kms made up the 12 special stages.

With a field of 26 entering the prologue on Thursday 1st February, the event also marked the largest entry yet in the Marlboro Desert Challenge series, which is now established as a major Gulf four-wheel-drive championship. For the first time saloon four-wheel-drive vehicles were entered into a BP 2000 event, but they can not secure championship points as the series is primarily designed for off-road vehicles.

Indeed, the saloon four-wheel-drive vehicles were the headline makers in the prologue. Three times middle East Champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem was entered in a Toyota GT4, but would not finish the stage following a blown engine to his vehicle. However, Michel Saleh in his Audi Quattro A4 would take the fastest time as he had predicted beforehand.

The following morning (Friday, February 2) the remaining 26 vehicles Bin-Sulayem the

only non-starter — set off from the Al Nasr Club at 8.00 am towards the Al Ain Road where all the stages were concentrated. From this point on the day would belong to Suhail Bin Khalifa in the first six stages he clocked the fastest times with relative ease.

Running in strong second overall position was Qatar's Saeed Al Hajri, who was piloting a Ford Bronco for the first time in a Middle East event. The car made a very promising debut and looked set to secure the runner-up slot until the tenth special stage when the front prop shaft broke. This mishap would see Al Hajri finishing in sixth overall position.

For the Marlboro Desert Challenge Champion Abbas Al Mosaawi and his Marlboro Mitsubishi team, for once they would not be on the winners podium. On the first special stage, Al Mosaawi's Pajero developed

problems with the right rear trailing arm resulting in five minute time penalty for lateness into the next stage. Further time delaying difficulties would occur with a broken front top right wishbone. "With these problems we decided to take it easy in the rally to conserve the car, and just to get points for the championships", said Rallyist Team Technical Manager Janne Lindstrom, whose car would finish fourth overall.

Local driver Mohammed Syalidan powered his way through the field to finish in second overall position, despite of losing six minutes earlier on due to a puncture. Third overall was Suhail Bin Khalifa in another locally prepared Land Rover. However, Suhail Bin Khalifa had at this point built up a comfortable lead, and with the difficulties facing Al Hajri and the Marlboro Mitsubishi driver Al Mosaawi — his victory was a comfortable one.

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